

SKI-SOU

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IN THE 1
Supreme Court of the United States

— o — o —
OCTOBER TERM, 1944

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No. 466

SKINNER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
a Nebraska Corporation,

Petitioner,

vs.

GENERAL FOOD SALES COMPANY, Inc.,
a Delaware Corporation,

Respondent.

— o — o —
**PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT AND BRIEF
IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

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a Nebraska Corporation,

Petitioner,

vs.

GENERAL FOOD SALES COMPANY, Inc.,
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Respondent.

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**PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT AND BRIEF
IN SUPPORT THEREOF**
— o — o —

*To the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of
the Supreme Court of the United States:*

Your Petitioner, Skinner Manufacturing Company, a Nebraska corporation of Omaha, Nebraska, respectfully prays that a Writ of Certiorari issue to review a decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, affirming a decree entered by the United States District Court, District of Nebraska, Omaha

Division, in the above-mentioned matter; and with respect thereto your Petitioner represents as follows:

I.

'Summary and Short Statement of the Matter Involved Nature of Case

This is a case in which the Petitioner charges the Respondent with infringement of Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" as applied to a dry prepared breakfast food distributed by Petitioner.

Pleadings

In its prayer for relief, the Petitioner prays that, "the Court issue an order permanently enjoining and restraining the defendant from advertising, offering for sale, or selling, anywhere within the United States of America, any food product under the designation 'Raisin Bran', and from infringing and violating the plaintiff's right to the exclusive enjoyment and use of its trade mark 'Raisin-BRAN' in the distribution of any of plaintiff's food products." (T. 9). The Respondent alleged that the term "Raisin Bran" was so descriptive of Petitioner's product that the term could not be exclusively appropriated and that the term had not acquired a secondary meaning and Respondent denied any infringement of Petitioner's mark.

The Evidence

In June 1925, the Petitioner introduced on the American market for the first time a packaged dry prepared

1 In this Brief, A. with numbers following it indicate the Notes in the Appendix where reference to the Transcript will be found; F. stands for Finding or Findings of Fact; C. stands for Conclusion or Conclusions of Law; E. stands for Exhibit or Exhibits; T. stands for Transcript of Record.

breakfast food composed of cereal flakes similar to products popularly known as "bran flakes," and with which whole seedless raisins were mixed (T. 162-182). This product was never patented (T. 182).

The petitioner adopted and applied to this product the term "Raisin-BRAN," standing alone, and used and claimed this term as a trade-mark for its said product (T. 162-182). Prior to this, the term "Raisin-Bran," standing alone, had never been applied to any such product (A. 6), and had no commonly understood meaning (F. 8, T. 107; A. 12 k, l), and as the Trial Court found, "There is no such product or thing as the bran of a raisin. Nor is there any product or thing which may ordinarily and logically be characterized as a 'raisin bran' " (F. 8, T. 107).

The Petitioner registered the term "Raisin-BRAN" in the United States Patent Office under the Trade-Mark Act of March 19, 1920 (c. 104, 41 Stat. 533), (T. 109, 162; A. 8), and continuously thereafter placed its mark "Raisin-BRAN" at the top of the front label of each package of its product and under the mark carried the statement "Trade-Mark" and at the bottom of each label carried the statement "An exclusive product distributed by Skinner Manufacturing Company, Omaha, Nebraska" (E. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 21, Def's Ex. 31; T. 162, 163, 723, 727). The petitioner also used its mark as a trade-mark in its advertising (T. 210 to 241), and never intentionally used its own name in immediate connection with its mark and always discouraged others from doing so (F. 24, T. 114, 115), and Petitioner never used any other mark as a trade-mark for its product (E. 31a to z, 31a-1 to z-1, 31aa to yy, all inclusive) (T. 210-241).

For many years prior to 1942, the background of the label on the packages containing Petitioner's product had

been diagonal stripes of blue, white and yellow and the sides of the packages were blue (E. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). At all times, Petitioner on its packages, and frequently in its advertising, used a distinctive design of its trade-mark where the word "Raisin" was on one line, the word "BRAN" just below it, and the "R" of the "Raisin" was larger than other letters (E. 3 to 10, inclusive, 31a to z, 31a-1 to z-1, 31aa to yy, all inclusive—T. 210-241).

From June 1925 to April 1942, Petitioner had no competition for its product (T. 177, 497, 577) and had the exclusive use of its mark "Raisin-BRAN" as a designation for a breakfast food product (T. 177), and during that period expended many thousands of dollars advertising its product and its mark "Raisin-BRAN", had an extensive sales force representing it, and by April 1942 had established a large and profitable business in its said product in all parts of the United States (E. 11, T. 164; F. 16, T. 111; E. 24, T. 190-194; E. 14, T. 165-167; E. 15, T. 169-177, T. 504, 505).

In April 1942, the Respondent and Kellogg Company both introduced on the market products containing so-called "Bran Flakes" with which raisins were mixed. The Respondent designated its product "Post's Raisin Bran", and Kellogg Company designated its product "Kellogg's Raisin 40% Bran Flakes" (E. 3, T. 737; 52 F. S. p. 437).

The Respondent has for many years been a large distributor of breakfast food products, particularly "Bran Flakes"; in 1942, Respondent was the second largest distributor of breakfast food products in the United States

(T. 502), its products were in a major portion of the grocery stores of the United States, and it has spent millions of dollars advertising its products under its trade name "Post's" which was well known to most of the purchasing public (T. 495, 498).

Up to April 1942, the Respondent had packaged its so-called "Bran Flakes" in cartons which were brown and red or yellow and red (Ptf.'s E. 106-A to Q, incl., T. 715), and in the few years just preceding 1942, had carried the words "40% Bran Flakes" on the package. When Respondent prepared its label for the product to which it applied the designation "Post's Raisin Bran", Respondent changed the coloring to blue and white and emphasized on its package the words "Raisin Bran", so that that term was the most conspicuous feature of the label (A. 9; Df.'s E. 3, T. 737). Although the words "Raisin Bran" were in different style of letters from Petitioner's trade mark, the "R" was made larger than the rest of the letters and the word "Bran" was placed below the word "Raisin" so that there was a substantial similarity between Petitioner's trade mark "Raisin-BRAN" as it appeared on Petitioner's package and Respondent's designation.

With full knowledge of the Petitioner's business and the extent and particular distribution thereof (T. 493), the Respondent "engaged in an extensive and expensive sales and radio advertising campaign which included generally the area in which the plaintiff at that time had its most favorable and profitable distribution and did its most intensive advertising." 52 F. S. p. 437 (T. 516, 405-505; E. 15, T. 168-175). The Respondent made a special price, offering the package of its competing product so that it could retail in combination with Grape Nuts Flakes at two

cents per package (E. 51A, T. 517). As a result, the grocers advertised it for sale at prices ranging from nothing per package (in combination with Grape Nuts Flakes, to two cents, six cents and nine cents per package (A. 10).

Following the introduction of Respondent's product many retail grocers advertised it merely as "Raisin Bran" and others advertised it as "Post's Raisin Bran" or "Raisin Bran, "Post's",," but in many instances the word "Post's" was in much smaller print than the words "Raisin Bran" (A. 10; T. 522, 523, 524). Out of 37 grocer witnesses who testified that they waited on customers as opposed to self-service stores (A. 4a), 16 testified that after April 1942, on an order for "Raisin Bran" they delivered whichever was handiest or most profitable, etc. (T. 274, 297, 415, 538, 557, 600, 606, 610, 620, 639, 663, 666, 672, 675, 693, 694), although 28 of these witnesses testified that before the advent of the Post and Kellogg products their customers called for Petitioner's product under the designation "Raisin Bran" (A. 4f), and 16 of these witnesses testified that when their customers asked for just "Raisin Bran," it was Petitioner's product they desired (A. 4g).

The evidence disclosed 4 consumers who were definitely confused between Petitioner's and Respondent's packages, by Respondent's use of the term "Raisin Bran" (A. 3i); and two retail grocers testified that their customers had been confused (T. 294, 297). To offset this, the Respondent adduced evidence of consumer witnesses who said they were not confused (A. 11), and of others, both consumers, retailers and wholesalers, who, after looking at the two packages, generally placed side by side, said they would not be confused (A. 11), and of retailers

who testified they did not know of any of their customers who were confused (A. 13).

All of the testimony was taken after Kellogg and the Respondent had initiated their intensive radio and newspaper advertising campaigns which were well calculated to break down the understanding of the consuming public that the term "Raisin Bran" signified a single thing coming from a single source, and to lead consumers to understand that "Raisin Bran" meant the product of any one of the then three distributors.

The Petitioner introduced evidence which showed that it had received thousands of letters from users of its product which proved that they understood that the Petitioner was the source of origin of "Raisin-BRAN" (E. 43 and 54, T. 207 and 209, T. 195; F. 20, T. 113).

The oral testimony which bears upon the issue as to whether or not Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" acquired a secondary meaning is not of a nature which could be truly called conflicting. It comes from 91 consumer witnesses, 5 of whom appeared before the Court in person (T. 331, 331, 509, 509, 580) and the rest of whose testimony was introduced by deposition; 58 retail grocers, all of whose testimony was offered by deposition; 35 wholesale grocers, 2 of whom appeared in person (T. 332, 507) and the rest of whose testimony was introduced by deposition; and 18 brokers and salesmen representing the Petitioner, 7 of whom appeared before the Court in person (T. 258, 263, 267, 270, 282, 334, 337), and the rest of whose testimony was introduced by deposition. The testimony of these witnesses relates to the understanding, knowledge and practices of such witnesses, but

does not present a conflict of evidence which destroys the credibility of any of them.

There were 86 consumer witnesses who had used "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 3a); there were 30 consumer witnesses who testified that the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's product (A. 3i); and 34 consumer witnesses knew that "Raisin-BRAN" was a product of the Petitioner (A. 3c); 9 consumer witnesses testified that although they did not know the name of the distributor, they did know that prior to the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, there was only one breakfast food designated "Raisin-BRAN" on the market (A. 3d); 39 consumer witnesses identified the Petitioner's product as the only one they have been accustomed to purchase as "Raisin-BRAN", and of these, 30 knew the name of the distributor (A. 3e, 3f); 17 consumers testified that when they wished the Petitioner's product, they asked for "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 3g), and the Trial Court in its opinion said that prior to April 1942, when consumers asked for "Raisin-BRAN" they were supplied with the Petitioner's product (F. 15, T. 111).

There were 37 retailer witnesses who gave evidence that they did a service business and 15 of these witnesses testified that before the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, their customers called for the Petitioner's product under the designation "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 4f); 16 testified that when their customers asked for just "Raisin-BRAN" they desired the Petitioner's product (A. 4g); and 28 retail grocers testified that the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's product (A. 4i).

Six of the Petitioner's sales representatives, with wide experience in the trade, and 31 wholesale grocers

with equally broad experience testified that prior to the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant Petitioner's product both in the whole-sale and retail trade (A. 5c).

The Trial Court found that "at all times during the marketing of plaintiff's product, nearly all wholesale dealers in food products and a majority of retail dealers in such products knew that the plaintiff was the distributor of 'Raisin-BRAN' and the only distributor of a product containing like ingredients or having a similar name" (F. 12, T. 109).

A substantial amount of testimony was elicited from the consumer and retail grocer witnesses in answer to the question propounded by Respondent's counsel, "What *does* the term raisin bran mean to you?" (A. 12a). Most of the witnesses gave their understanding as of a time after General Foods and Kellogg products carrying the designations "Raisin Bran" were on the market and with such competitive products in mind (A. 12b); and many of these witnesses also testified that the term "Raisin Bran" meant the Petitioner's products, before the advent of the General Foods and Kellogg products (A. 12c); some of these witnesses answered in response to leading and suggestive questions (A. 12d); and others testified without any real knowledge on the subject (A. 12e), or were answering requests for dictionary definitions (A. 12f).

Only five witnesses, in answer to the question, "Does the term Raisin Bran mean any particular producer or manufacturer?" or words to that effect, answered "No" (A. 12g), and two of these witnesses understood that "Raisin Bran" meant the Petitioner's product before the advent of competition.

The testimony of all but a few of the witnesses who answered the questions, "What does Raisin Bran mean to you?" and "Does it mean any particular producer or manufacturer?" shows that the witnesses also understood the trade-mark significance of the term Raisin Bran (A. 12a).

As soon as Petitioner became aware of Respondent's infringement, Petitioner wrote the Respondent demanding that it cease and desist from using Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" as the designation for Respondent's product and from using the mark in selling and distributing its product (T. 28). To this Respondent replied, "General Foods Corporation has no intention to comply with your demand * * * the expression 'Raisin Bran' is merely a descriptive term * * *" (T. 29). Shortly thereafter the Petitioner filed its complaint.

Trial Court's Conclusions, Findings, Opinion and Decree

The Trial Court made 43 Findings of Fact (T. 105-123) 25 Conclusions of Law (T. 122-128), wrote an opinion found at 52 Federal Supplement at pages 432-452, and dismissed Petitioner's complaint with prejudice (T. 128).

An examination of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Opinion of the Trial Court shows that the Trial Court predicated its Findings of Fact that there was no secondary meaning established by the Petitioner, upon the Court's Conclusions of Law:

(1) That a term which is composed of two words each of which is descriptive of an important constituent of a product cannot acquire a secondary meaning (52 F. S., pp. 445-448); (2) that the use of the word "bran" in

Respondent's trade-mark precluded the mark "Raisin-BRAN" from acquiring a secondary meaning (52 F. S. 448); (3) that a secondary meaning cannot be acquired by a term applied to an unpatented product during the time when the product to which the term is applied has no competition in the market (52 F. S. 448-449); (4) that the registration of the term "Raisin-BRAN" under the Trade Mark Act of March 1920, was void (C. 11, T. 126); (5) that the term "Raisin-BRAN" did not acquire a secondary meaning because a substantial portion of the consuming public did not know the personal identity of the distributor, even though many of them knew that it was a single thing coming from a single source and some of them actually knew the source of origin; the Court having concluded that the case of *Kellogg Company v. National Biscuit Company*, 305 U. S. 111, governed this case (52 F. S. 449), and that the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, did not (52 F. S. 449-450); (6) that proof of the following character is not sufficient to establish a secondary meaning;—"(a) An exclusive and long continued use of its designation during a period when no competition was in the field; (b) a wide distribution of its product; (c) a wide advertising campaign and large expenditures for advertising the product under the designation; and (d) identification of the product by its designation on the part of a substantial portion of the purchasing public; understanding by a substantial portion of the purchasing public and most of the retail and wholesale trade that the name signifies a single thing coming from a single source and covers a product made and distributed exclusively by the person who claims the brand; a recognition in the product of superior qualities or of excellence by a substantial portion of the purchasing public" (52 F. S. 448); (7) that evidence of those who

never heard of the product or who did not know its source of origin or for whom the term had acquired a dual significance, one characterizing the product, the other its source of origin, or who had been led by the advertising of the Respondent and Kellogg to understand the term applied to any product, negated positive, credible, uncontradicted evidence of many consumers, and retail and wholesale dealers who testified that the term meant the Petitioner's product, or a particular product coming from a single source; (8) that testimony of sales representatives of the Petitioner, with wide experience dealing with the trade, to the effect that in the mind of the consuming public the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's particular product, and similar testimony of wholesale and retail grocers with wide experience in the trade, was incompetent as proof of a secondary meaning; (9) that there was no likelihood of confusion or palming off, even though there was positive evidence of both; (10) that there was no likelihood of confusion in the future because the Respondent and Kellogg engaged in an immediate extensive and intensive newspaper and radio advertising campaign and thereby caused many members of the consuming public to understand that the term applied to any product similar to Petitioner's (52 F. S. 437); (11) that the likelihood of confusion and palming off was to be determined by the reaction of an "ordinary cautious member of the public, using reasonable care and attention in purchasing," and by the Trial Court's "long and careful scrutiny" of the packages containing Petitioner's and Respondent's product (52 F. S. 450), and that such evidence outweighed the positive testimony of credible witnesses who were confused or who had palmed off the Respondent's product for that of the Petitioner; (12) that the use of Respondent's name

on Respondent's package and the use of different colored packages was sufficient to avoid a charge of unfair competition through the appropriation of Petitioner's trade-mark (52 F. S. 451).

Grounds for Appeal to Circuit Court of Appeals

The Petitioner appealed from this decree and urged as grounds for reversal that, (1) the Trial Court's Findings of Fact which were adverse to the Petitioner are mixed conclusions of law and fact and were predicated upon an erroneous view of the law; (2) the term "Raisin-BRAN," standing alone, as applied to Petitioner's breakfast food product was capable of acquiring a secondary meaning, and the Trial Court erred when it concluded and held otherwise; (3) Petitioner's registration of the term "Raisin-BRAN" under the 1920 Trade Mark Act was valid, and the Trial Court erred when it concluded and held otherwise; (4) as used by the Petitioner, the term "Raisin-BRAN" acquired a secondary meaning prior to the time that Respondent introduced its competing product, and the Trial Court erred when it concluded and held otherwise; (5) the Respondent was guilty of unfair competition in appropriating Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN," and the Trial Court erred when it concluded and held otherwise; (6) the Petitioner is entitled to the relief prayed for, and the Trial Court erred in finding, concluding and decreeing otherwise.

Decision of United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, in an opinion found at Transcript Vol. VI, pp. 3-11, affirmed the decision of the Lower Court,

predicating its affirmance chiefly upon an approval of the Trial Court's Opinion and the conclusion that under Federal Rule of Practice No. 52, the Findings of the Trial Court that no secondary meaning had been established, that there was no confusion or palming off and no likelihood of confusion or palming off, were binding upon the Appellate Court.

In its opinion the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in effect held that the third sentence of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure No. 52 precluded the Appellate Court from reviewing the facts in an equity appeal. The Court also, among other things, held that the question "whether the similarities which exist between the packages used by the appellees and the packages used by appellant have caused or are likely to cause deception and confusion in the trade, is, we think, a question of fact for the Trial Court to determine. *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca Cola Company*, 8th C. C. A., 139 F. 2d 417-418" (T. VI-10).

Petition for Writ of Certiorari

It is from the foregoing decision of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals that this Petition for Writ of Certiorari is taken.

II.

Basis Upon Which It Is Contended the United States Supreme Court Has Jurisdiction to Review

This Writ is sought under authority of Section 240 (a) of the Judicial Code (c. 231, Sec. 240 (a), 36 Stat. 1157) as amended February 13, 1925 (c. 229, Sec. 1, 43 Stat. 938; T. 28, Sec. 347 U. S. C.) (A. 14). The jurisdiction of the District Court and United States Circuit Court of Appeals are predicated upon Section 17 of

the 1905 Trade-Mark Act (A. 20) and Section 6 of the 1920 Trade-Mark Act (A. 21). There is a diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds \$3,000.00 (T. 105, F. 1).

The decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals from which this writ is sought was handed down August 4, 1944 (T. Vol. VI, p. 3). This Petition for Writ of Certiorari is presented on September 15, 1944.

The opinion of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on account of which this writ of Certiorari is sought is found at pages 3 to 11 of Volume VI of the Transcript of Record in this case. The opinion of the United States District Court, District of Nebraska, in this case is found at 52 Federal Supplement, pages 432 to 452, inclusive.

III.

Questions Presented

1. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it concluded that Federal Rule of Civil Procedure No. 52 precludes a review of the findings of the Trial Court on an appeal of an equity case (T. Vol. VI, pp. 8-9, 10).

2. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it found that the term "Raisin Bran" was the "primary generic meaning" of Petitioner's breakfast food product (T. Vol. VI, p. 8).

3. The Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it sustained the conclusion of the Trial Court that the case of *Kellogg Company v. National Biscuit Company*, 305 U. S.

111, governed a decision in this case and that the case of *Coca Cola Company v. Koke Company*, 254 U. S. 143, did not (T. Vol. VI, p. 8).

4. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it concluded and held that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning for the reason that it was composed of two words which were descriptive of the two principal ingredients of the product to which it was applied (T. Vol. VI, pp. 7-9).

5. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it approved the Trial Court's Opinion, in which it was concluded that a trade-mark or trade term could not acquire a secondary meaning during the time the product to which it was applied had no competition in the market (T. Vol. VI, pp. 8-9).

6. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it approved the Trial Court's Opinion in which it was concluded that the following proof would not be sufficient to establish a secondary meaning: "(a) An exclusive and long continued use of its designation during a period when no competitor was in the field; (b) a wide distribution of its product; (c) a wide advertising campaign and large expenditures for advertising the product under the designation; and (d) identification of the product by its designation on the part of a substantial portion of the purchasing public; (e) understanding by a substantial portion of the purchasing public and most of the retail and wholesale trade that the name signifies a single thing coming from a single source and covers a product made and distributed exclusively by the person who claims the brand; (f) a recognition in the product of superior quality or excellence by a substantial portion

of the purchasing public" (52 F. S. 448) (T. Vol. VI, p. 8).

7. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it approved the Trial Court's Opinion in which it was concluded that the testimony of sales representatives of the Petitioner, with wide experience dealing with the trade, to the effect that in the mind of the consuming public the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's particular product, and similar testimony of wholesale and retail grocers with wide experience in the trade, was incompetent as proof of a secondary meaning.

8. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it held that the term "Raisin-BRAN" had not acquired a secondary meaning and that it was bound by the Trial Court's finding to that effect (T. Vol. VI, p. 9).

9. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit erred when it concluded that the Respondent had the right to designate its product "Raisin Bran."

10. The Trial Court erred when it found that the Respondent, by placing its own name "Post's" on its package and packaging its product in a package with blue background had done all that was necessary to distinguish its product from that of Petitioner; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it concluded that such findings were binding upon the Appellate Court (T. Vol. VI, p. 10).

11. The Trial Court erred in its finding that the proof did not show confusion and palming off of Respondent's product for the product of the Petitioner; and

the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred in concluding that such findings of the Trial Court were binding upon the Appellate Court.

12. The Trial Court erred when it found that there was no likelihood of confusion and palming off; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it concluded that such findings were binding upon the Appellate Court.

13. The Trial Court erred when it concluded that the equities in the case were in favor of the Respondent and against the Petitioner; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it affirmed such a conclusion.

14. The Trial Court erred when it failed to grant the Petitioner the relief prayed for; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it affirmed the opinion and decision of the Trial Court.

IV.

Reasons Relied Upon for Allowance of Writ

The questions involved in this proceedings are of substantial national importance, to wit:

(1) An interpretation is sought of that sentence of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 52, which reads "Findings of fact shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous" (A. 15). There is a conflict between the decisions of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals with respect to a proper interpretation of that sentence as shown by the opinion in this case (T. Vol. VI, pp. 8-9, 10) and the opinion in *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca Cola Company*, 8th C. C. A., 139 F. 2d 416, and the following decisions

in other Circuits: *Eastern Wine Corporation v. Winslow-Warren, Ltd., Inc.*, 2nd C. C. A., 137 F. 2d 955; *Pfeifer Oil Transportation Co., Inc., v. The Ira S. Bushey, et al*, 2nd C. C. A., 129 F. 2d 607; *Kuhn v. Princess Lida of Thurn & Taxis*, 3rd C. C. A., 119 F. 2d 704; *Texas Agricultural Assn. of Edinburg, et al v. Hidalgo Co. Water Control Improvement District et al*, 5th C. C. A., 125 F. 2d 829; *Jarvis, Postmaster, v. Shackleton Inhaler Co.*, 6th C. C. A., 136 F. 2d 116; *Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States v. Irelan*, 9th C. C. A., 123 F. 2d 462; and this Court has never rendered any final decision in the matter.

(2) A determination is sought as to whether or not a trade name which is composed of words descriptive of one or more of the ingredients, or of the qualities or uses, of an unpatented product, and which product may be aptly designated by another term, may acquire a secondary meaning against the use of said term by a competitor. There is a conflict between the decisions of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in this case on this question, and the decisions of the Second, Third and Sixth Circuits in the following cases: "Spunlo," *Industrial Rayon Corporation v. Dutchess Underwear Corporation*, 2nd C. C. A., 92 F. 2d 33; "Dyanshine," *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 3rd C. C. A., 29 F. 2d 474; "Coca-Cola," *Nashville Syrup Co. v. Coca-Cola Co.*, 6th C. C. A., 215 F. 527; "Hot-Patch," *Shaler Co. v. Rite-Way Products, Inc.*, 107 F. 2d 82.

(3) A determination is sought as to whether or not a secondary meaning may be acquired for a trade name or trade-mark applied to an unpatented product during a period when there is no competition in the market with

such product. There are conflicting decisions with respect to this question between the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. In its opinion in this case, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals approved the opinion of the District Court, in which opinion the Trial Court quoted with approval from *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Company v. Quaker Oats Company*, 6th C. C. A., 235 F. 657, 665, 666, to the effect that secondary meaning may not be established in a trade-mark or trade name during a period when no one else was either making or dealing in the article to which the mark was applied; whereas in the case of *Saalfield Publishing Co. v. G. & C. Merriam Co.*, 238 F. 1, in Note 3 at the bottom of page 9, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals says: "Where an article is put out under a trade name which, although it may be called descriptive, is yet also something more than merely descriptive, and where the public is free to compete in the same article and in the same name, but for a long period refrains from both, this seems to the writer the ideal soil in which the secondary meaning may grow into effective existence. The name points to one maker only without confusion or uncertainty and it is a sure 'badge of origin'"; this Court has never rendered a decision on this question.

(4) There appears to be a conflict of decisions between the following statements made in opinions of this Court, to wit:

"The name now characterizes a beverage to be had at almost any soda fountain. It means a single thing coming from a single source and well known to the community. It hardly would be too much to say that the drink characterizes the name as much as the name the drink. In other words, Coca Cola probably means to most persons the plaintiff's familiar

product, to be had everywhere, rather than a compound of particular substances. * * * We see no reason to doubt that, as we have said, it has acquired a secondary meaning in which, perhaps, the product is more emphasized than the producer but to which the producer is entitled."

Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co., 254 U. S. 143, 146.

"But to establish a trade name in the term 'Shredded Wheat' the plaintiff must show more than a subordinate meaning which applies to it. It must show that the primary significance of the term in the minds of the consuming public is not the product but the producer."

Kellogg Company v. National Biscuit Co., 305 U. S. 111, 118.

The opinion in the latter case does not sufficiently distinguish the difference in facts between the Coca Cola case and the Shredded Wheat case to make clear the distinctions between the rules laid down in the two cases, and when one rule should apply or when the other, and such distinction has never been clearly pointed out by this Court.

(5) A determination is sought as to what character of proof will establish a secondary meaning in a trade name or trade-mark. There is a conflict between the decision of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in this case on this question and the decisions of the Third, Fourth and Sixth Circuits in the following cases: *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 3rd C. C. A., 29 F. 2d 474 (2 F. 2d 402); *Coca Cola v. Old Dominion Beverage Corporation*, 4th

C. C. A., 271 F. 601; *Little Tavern Shops v. Davis*, 4th C. C. A., 116 F. 2d 903, 906; *Grocers Baking Co. v. Sigler*, 6th C. C. A., 132 F. 2d 498.

(6) The issues of fact and law in this case which are raised by the evidence, pleadings and opinions of the Lower Courts, are so comprehensive that they will permit of a decision which will clarify the law of unfair competition as it relates to trade-marks and trade names composed of surnames, geographic names or terms containing words descriptive of the contents or uses of the products to which such terms are applied.

(7) There are many decisions relating to the law of unfair competition as it relates to trade-marks and trade names composed of surnames, geographic names or terms containing words descriptive of the contents or uses of the products to which such terms are applied; on cursory examination, many of these decisions seem to be conflicting, and there is no decision which has clearly pointed out the distinctions by which these numerous decisions may be reconciled and their applicability to any particular set of circumstances determined. The issues of fact and law in this case which are raised by the pleadings, evidence and opinions of the Lower Courts are so comprehensive that they will permit a decision which will reconcile the numerous decisions on the questions raised, and make clear their applicability to any particular set of circumstances.

(8) The determination of this case will affect a

substantial portion of the grocery trade and purchasing public in all parts of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

— 0 — 0 —
OCTOBER TERM, 1944

— 0 — 0 —
No......

— 0 — 0 —
SKINNER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
a Nebraska Corporation,
Petitioner,

vs.

GENERAL FOOD SALES COMPANY, Inc.,
a Delaware Corporation,
Respondent.

— 0 — 0 —
**BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR
CERTIORARI**

— 0 — 0 —
REPORTS OF OPINIONS IN COURTS BELOW

The opinion of the District Court of Nebraska from which appeal was taken to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals is found in 52 Federal Supplement at pages 432 to 452, inclusive.

The opinion of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, on account of which this Writ of Certiorari is sought, is not yet published in an official report, but is found on pages 3 to 11 of Vol. VI of the Transcript of Record.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this Court is predicated upon Section 240 (a) of the Judicial Code as amended (A. 14). The jurisdiction of the District Court and United States Circuit Court of Appeals were predicated upon Section 17 of the 1905 Trade-Mark Act (A. 20) and Section 6 of the 1920 Trade-Mark Act (A. 21).

STATEMENT OF CASE

A concise statement of the case with references to the record is found on pages 2 and 15 of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari to which this Brief is appended, and by reference is hereby incorporated in this Brief.

SPECIFICATIONS OF ERRORS INTENDED TO BE URGED

The specifications of errors intended to be urged are found under "Questions Presented" on pages 16 to 19 in Petition for Writ of Certiorari to which this Brief is appended, and by reference are hereby incorporated in this Brief.

APPLICABLE DECISIONS, STATE OR FEDERAL

As stated in Note 1 of the Opinion of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals (T. Vol. VI, p. 5), "It is not contended that the applicable local law differs substantially from the general law, and the parties rely upon Federal precedents." The Lower Court discussed this matter thoroughly in 52 F. S. 432 at pages 439-441, and

after reviewing the Nebraska decisions, said: "It is, therefore, considered that there is no disparity between the pertinent substantive law, if any, as administered in the State Courts of Nebraska, and that which is to be gleaned from the American decisions generally, and particularly from the Federal Court decisions." Neither of the parties took any exception to the Trial Court's conclusions in this matter.



ARGUMENT

1. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure No. 52 did not change the old right of an appellant in an equity case to have the findings of fact reviewed in the Appellate Court.

In its discussion of secondary meaning, the Court of Appeals said: "Under the evidence, the issue was one of fact to be tried and determined by the Trial Court, and its determination is binding upon this Court. *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca-Cola Co.*, 8 Cir., 139 F. 2d 416, 417-418 and cases cited" (T. Vol. VI, p. 9).

The Court of Appeals also said:

"Under the evidence, the questions whether the appellees had furnished adequate means to identify their products and to distinguish them from appellant's product, and whether the similarities which existed between the packages used by appellees and the package used by appellant have caused or are likely to cause deception and confusion in the trade, were, we think, questions of fact for the Trial Court to determine. *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca-Cola Co.*, 8 Cir., *supra*" (T. Vol. VI, p. 10).

In the opinion of the Eighth Circuit Court in the case of *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca-Cola Co.*, *supra*, the Court said:

“This court, upon review, will not retry issues of fact or substitute its judgment with respect to such issues for that of the trial court. * * * The power of the trial court to decide doubtful issues of fact is not limited to deciding them correctly.”

It thus appears that the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals considered that the rights of appellant to a review of findings of fact of the Trial Court in an appeal in an equity case, were abridged and modified by that sentence of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure No. 52 which reads: “Findings of fact shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous, and due regard should be given to the opportunity of the Trial Court to judge of the credibility of witnesses” (A. 15). It is submitted that the failure of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the Trial Court’s Findings of Fact on the questions of secondary meaning, confusion, palming off, and likelihood of confusion and palming off, was prejudicial error.

This Court has not passed definitely on the particular questions involved, but the following indicates that it does not incline to the position taken by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals: “This general rule (Federal Rule of Civil Procedure No. 52), even if it were thought to modify the previous rule as to review of findings of fact in equity cases, would hardly supersede a special statutory measure of review applicable to a special and local tribunal. We conclude therefore, that the Court of Appeals has power to review decisions of the Board of Tax Appeals as under the equity practice in which the whole case, both facts and law, are open for consideration in the Appellate Court * * *.” *District of Columbia v. Pace*, — U. S. —, 88 L. Ed. Adv. Sh. 6, pp. 319, 321.

On this same question, the Advisory Committee on Rules, in its note on this section, said: “* * * The rule

stated in the third sentence of subdivision A (Rule 52) accords with the decisions on the scope of review in modern federal equity practice." Tit. 28, U. S. C. A., foll. Sec. 723 (c), pp. 677, 678. Prior to the adoption of the new Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, it was well established that an appellant in equity had the right to have the Appellate Court review the facts as well as the law. "An appeal in equity imports a broad power of revision." *Radio Corporation of America v. Radio Engineering Laboratories*, 293 U. S. 1, 9: "By the ordinary practice in equity as administered in England and this country, an Appellate Court has the power on appeal * * * to examine the merits of the case if sufficiently shown by the pleadings and the record * * *," *North Carolina Railroad Co. v. C. D. Storey, Sheriff*, 268 U. S. 288, 292; *Unkle v. Wiles*, 8th C. C. A., 281 F. 29; *Klaber v. Lakenan*, 64 F. 2d 86.

The right to have the Appellate Court try the case de novo and review the law and the facts of the case, is a substantive right, not a mere matter of procedure. The Statute which gave the Supreme Court authority to promulgate the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure says in part: "Said rules shall neither abridge, enlarge nor modify the substantive rights of any litigant." c. 651, Sec. 1, 48 Stat. 1064 (A. 17). That portion of the Statute which provides that there shall be but one form of civil action reads: "The court may at any time unite the general rules prescribed by it for cases in equity with those in actions at law, so as to secure one form of civil action and procedure for both. * * *" c. 651, Sec. 2, 48 Stat. 1064 (A. 17). This, however, does not indicate that substantive rights of parties engaged in suits of an equitable nature were to be abrogated, but merely that the form of

action and the procedure in a case of an equitable nature was to be modified so that the form of action and procedure should be the same as in a suit at law.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure No. 1 reads: "These rules govern the procedure * * *. They shall be construed to secure the just determination of every action" (A. 16). It is submitted that this makes it clear that the rules were not intended to change the scope of review on appeal of a case of an equitable nature so that the findings of fact of the trial court should not be subject to review.

Conflict in Decision of Circuit Court of Appeals

The decision of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on this point, as set forth in the opinion in this case and in *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca Cola Company*, 8th C. C. A., 138 F. 2d 416, is contrary to the decisions in other Circuits in the following cases: *Jarvis, Postmaster, v. Shackleton Inhaler Co.*, 6th C. C. A., 136 F. 2d 116, 117; *Pfeifer Oil Transportation Company, Inc. v. The Ira S. Bushey, et al.*, C. C. A., 129 F. (2d) 607; *Kuhn v. Princess Lida of Thurn and Taxis*, 3rd C. C. A., 119 F. (2d) 704; *Texas Agricultural Association of Edinburg et al v. Hidalgo Co. Water Control Improvement District et al*, 5th C. C. A., 125 F. 2d 829; *Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States v. Irelan*, 9th C. C. A., 123 F. (2d) 462.

In the opinion in the case at bar, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals said that the question "whether the similarities which exist between the packages used by the appellees and the packages used by appellant have caused or are likely to cause deception and confusion in the trade, is, we think, a question of fact for the trial court to deter-

mine" (T. Vol. VI, p. 10). This holding is contrary to the following holding on the same question:

"He" (the Trial Judge) "did find such 'similarity in sound and appearance * * * as to make confusion of the two probable.' Apparently that finding was not based on the testimony as to confusion; if we assume that it was then we must hold that finding 'clearly erroneous.' If it was not based on that testimony but solely on the names themselves, we are in as good a position as the trial judge to determine the probability of confusion."

Eastern Wine Corporation v. Winslow-Warren, Ltd., Inc., 2nd C. C. A., 137 F. 2d 955, 959-960.

2. At the time of its adoption by Petitioner as a trade mark for its breakfast food, the term "Raisin-Bran," standing alone, was not the primary generic name for any particular product.

The Circuit Court of Appeals in its Opinion treated the term "Raisin Bran" as "the primary generic name for the Petitioner's breakfast food product at the time of its adoption by the Petitioner (T. Vol. VI, p. 7). This is not in accord with the evidence or with the findings of the Trial Court. The evidence shows that there is no such thing as the bran of a raisin (A. 121). The evidence also shows that prior to its adoption by the Petitioner in 1925, the term "Raisin Bran", standing alone, had not been applied to any food product (A. 12j; F. 6, T. 106), and there was no evidence of such employment on any food product prior to 1925 (par. 1, T. 132); and there was positive testimony to the effect that it had not been employed on any product prior to 1925 (A. 6c). And the Trial Court found, "There is no such product or thing as the bran of a raisin. Nor is there any product or thing which

may ordinarily and logically be characterized as 'a raisin bran' " (F. 8, T. 107).

In spite of the above evidence and findings, the Trial Court failed to distinguish the difference between the terms "Shredded Wheat," "Corn Flakes," and "Oatmeal" and the term "Raisin-BRAN." There is, however, a marked distinction between these terms. "Shredded Wheat" is a wheat which has been shredded; the genus is "wheat," the species is indicated by the word "shredded." "Corn Flakes" are either corn which has been flaked, or flakes made of corn; "Oatmeal" is either oats which have been mealed or meal made of oats; and the respective genus is either "corn" or "oats" with the words "flakes" and "meal" respectively used to indicate the species of the genus, or the words "flakes" or "meal" respectively represents the genus with the words "corn" and "oats" used to represent the species. "Raisin-BRAN," however, does not signify bran which has been raisined, or raisins which have ben branned, nor does it signify the bran of a raisin or the raisin of a bran. The term is merely a combination of two generic words which, when combined, do not constitute a single generic term, or a term which designates the species of a genus.

The Circuit Court of Appeals endeavored to support its statement that the term "Raisin-BRAN" was the "primary generic" name of Petitioner's product, by saying "without raisins the product would appropriately have been called 'bran flakes' or 'bran.' With raisins it was 'raisin bran' in the same sense that pie containing raisins is 'raisin pie,' that bread containing raisins is 'raisin bread,' and that muffins containing raisins are 'raisin muffins' " (T. Vol. VI, p. 7). Pie is crust with a filler, bakery products often contain fruit as a component part;

the terms "raisin pie," "raisin bread" and "raisin muffins" were in common use for many years, the words "pie," "bread," and "muffins" indicating the genus, the word "raisin" being well understood to indicate the species of the genus.

As pointed out above, the evidence shows that prior to the introduction of Petitioner's product on the market, there was no product commonly known as "Raisin Bran," and the Trial Court so found (F. 8, T. 107). The term "Raisin Bran," standing alone, cannot accurately be said to designate a genus or the species of a genus. It is merely a compound of two words, each by itself generic, but in combination, the term was not, at the time of its adoption by the Petitioner as a trade-mark for its product, the primary generic name for the product to which it was applied; and immediately prior to its adoption and use by the Petitioner, if any member of the consuming public had been asked "What is Raisin Bran?", he would have been compelled to answer that he did not know, or, if he attempted to answer, his answer would have been a mere guess and it cannot be assumed that he would have understood instantly that it designated a breakfast food product identical or similar to the product which the Petitioner was then about to put upon the market.

3. This case is governed by the rules laid down in the "Coca Cola Case" and not by the decision in the "Shredded Wheat Case."

The Trial Court's Opinion (52 F. S. 432-452) which the Appellate Court follows with approval (T. Vol. VI, pp. 4-11), and the Trial Court's Findings of Fact (T. 105-123), show that said Findings of Fact are predicated chiefly upon the Trial Court's Conclusions of Law that

the principles announced in the case of *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, commonly known as the "Shredded Wheat Case" govern a determination of this case, and that the principles announced in the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143 (which we shall hereinafter refer to as the "Coca Cola Case") are not applicable to the case at bar (52 F. S. 432, 449).

In the opinion in the "Shredded Wheat Case," the facts which governed the decision were not clearly set out, but reference is made to the case of *Natural Food Co. v. Williams*, 30 App. D. 348. An examination of the Natural Food Company case, and of an article by Derenberg found in 16 N. Y. U. L. Q. R., at page 366, shows the facts in the "Shredded Wheat Case" to be as follows:

The predecessor in interest of National Biscuit Company commenced manufacturing the product "Shredded Wheat" in 1893. In 1895 a patent was taken out on the process of manufacturing the product. This patent expired in 1912. From 1893 to 1905, no claim was made that "Shredded Wheat" was the trade-mark of the product, and until 1914, the distributor used a picture of the Goddess Ceres, with a torch in one hand and a sheaf of wheat in the other, for its trade-mark. In 1905, the Natural Food Company filed application to register the term "Shredded Wheat" under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Trade-Mark Act, but this registration was denied on appeal by the Circuit Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia on the grounds that (1) the claimant had not used the term "Shredded Wheat" as a trade-mark, (2) the opposer, Williams, had been marketing a competing product under the name "Shredded Wheat," and (3) other inventors of machinery for manufacturing a similar product had stated

in their patents that the purpose of their machinery was to shred wheat. In 1914 the National Biscuit Company placed upon the package of its product as its trade-mark a picture of Niagara Falls, and the words "Shredded Wheat," standing alone, were not used as a trade-mark. In 1920 the National Biscuit Company registered the term "Shredded Wheat" as its trade-mark under the 1920 Trade-Mark Act; but the evidence showed that from 1912 on, the Kellogg Company in competition with the National Biscuit Company had from time to time manufactured and marketed a similar product.

On this record, the Supreme Court of the United States, in 305 U. S. 111, held that: (1) since the term "Shredded Wheat" was applied to a patented product, the name passed to the public with the expiration of the patent, and (2) "For many years there was no attempt to use the term 'Shredded Wheat' as a trade-mark, * * *. It is contended that the plaintiff has the exclusive right to the name 'Shredded Wheat,' because these words acquired the secondary meaning of 'Shredded Wheat' made at Niagara Falls by plaintiff's predecessor. There is no basis here for applying the doctrine of secondary meaning."

It is apparent from the foregoing that the National Biscuit Company was attempting to recapture a name which had already been dedicated to the public, was in the public domain, and which it had taken no effective means to establish as a trade-mark. It is with this state of facts in mind that the Court held, "To establish a trade-name in the term 'Shredded Wheat,' the plaintiff must show more than a subordinate meaning which applies to it. It must show that the primary significance

of the term in the minds of the consuming public is not the product but the producer." *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, 118.

The Canadian² and English³ "Shredded Wheat" decisions are predicated upon the same rule of law; and an examination of the opinions in those cases shows that they are predicated upon the same state of facts as the American "Shredded Wheat Case" except that instead of the use of the Goddess Ceres as a trade-mark in Canada and England, the Canadian Shredded Wheat Company used first a picture of a bowl with the product and a spoon in the bowl for its trade-mark, and later a picture of Niagara Falls; and on the packages the companies emphasized that the purchaser should purchase the "Original Shredded Wheat" manufactured by the particular companies involved.

The Appellate Court in its Opinion, and the Trial Court in its decision, treated the terms "Shredded Wheat" and "Corn Flakes" as though they were identical in character and structure to Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN." The dissimilarity between these terms has been discussed on pages 32 and 33, *supra*.

In the case at bar, the Trial Court held that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning because it contained two words descriptive of contents of the product, and that the Petitioner had failed in its proof of a secondary meaning because it had failed to show "that the primary significance of the term in the minds

2 Canadian Shredded Wheat Co., Ltd., v. Kellogg Co. of Canada, Ltd., 55 R. P. C. 125.

3 In the Matter of Shredded Wheat Company's Trade-Mark "Shredded Wheat," 55 R. P. C. 271, 278, affirmed by the House of Lords, 57 R. P. C. 137, 147.

of the consuming public is not the product but the producer." These findings were chiefly predicated upon the case of *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111.

The term "Coca Cola" in its origin and at the time of its adoption, had characteristics identical to those of "Raisin-BRAN," in that the term when first adopted was composed of two generic words descriptive of two of the constituents of the product to which the term was applied, but the combined words did not, at the time of the adoption of the term, constitute a generic name, nor were they, in combination, the designation of a species of a genus; and standing alone, prior to their application to the claimant's now well-known drink, they might have been applied to a bakery product or anything, and a member of the consuming public, if he had been asked "What is Coca-Cola?" would have been compelled to answer that he did not know. The term "Coca-Cola" was applied to a product which was not patented and was used by the claimant as the trade-mark for its product, no other trade-mark being used. In spite of these and other similarities between the "Raisin-BRAN" case and the "Coca-Cola" case, the Trial Court held that the rules announced in the Coca-Cola Case did not apply to the case at bar (52 F. S. 449). It is submitted that this was error.

The evidence in this case shows that for seventeen years the Petitioner had the exclusive use of its trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" for a breakfast food product (T. 162-163), the product was not protected by a patent (T. 182), and the Petitioner had made the term valuable by its large advertising expenditures and its business acumen (T. 164; F. 16, T. 111, 112); and the product being unpatented, there was nothing during the seventeen years

when Petitioner had the exclusive use of the mark to prevent the Respondent or any other competitor from coming into the market prior to the time that the Petitioner had established the term "Raisin-BRAN" as a valuable trade-mark.

In the Coca Cola case, Justice Holmes held that a secondary meaning had been established and stated the rule as follows: "The name now characterizes a beverage to be had at almost any soda fountain. It means a single thing coming from a single source and well known to the community. It hardly would be too much to say that the drink characterizes the name as much as the name the drink. In other words, Coca Cola probably means to most persons the plaintiff's familiar product, to be had everywhere, rather than a compound of particular substances. We see no reason to doubt that as we have said it has acquired a secondary meaning in which perhaps the product is more emphasized than the producer, but to which the producer is entitled." *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, 146.

The Petitioner submits that is is the foregoing rule which should govern the decision in this case and upon which the Findings of Fact should be predicated; but the Trial Court held that the case was inapplicable because "Coca Cola" was registered under both the Trade-Mark Act of 1881 and under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Trade-Mark Act; whereas, the term "Raisin-BRAN" was only registered under the 1920 Trade-Mark Act; and the Trial Court cited *Thaddeus Davids Co. v. Davids Mfg. Co.*, 233 U. S. 461, as authority for its conclusion (52 F. S. 449).

The fact that "Coca Cola" was registered under the Trade-Mark Act of 1881 is of no significance. Subsequent

to its registration under that Act, the term was registered under the ten-year proviso of the 1905 Act. This latest registration was undoubtedly the result of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Elgin National Watch Co. v. Illinois National Watch Co.*, 179 U. S. 665, in which the Court held that the Trade-Mark Act of March 3, 1881, did not permit the registration of marks which contained descriptive, generic or geographical words, and that such a registration was not of sufficient force or effect to give the Federal Courts jurisdiction with respect to the registration of marks which were descriptive. The Thaddeus Davids case was decided in 1913, which was prior to the passage of the 1920 Trade-Mark Act, and in the case of *Nashville Syrup Co. v. Coca Cola Co.*, 6th C. C. A., 215 F. 527, 529, it was stated: "We do not regard the decision in the Davids case as holding that the statute directly operates to grant a monopoly to one who rightfully registers under the ten-year clause (of the 1905 Act) a descriptive word."

"Raisin-BRAN" could not be registered under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Act (A. 18) because it was not in use for ten years prior to 1905, and for that reason it was registered under the 1920 Act. The only difference between the character of the terms "Coca Cola" and "Raisin-BRAN" lay in the fact that "Coca Cola" was in use for ten years or more prior to 1905, whereas the term "Raisin-BRAN" was not. The only difference in the rights of a trade-mark registered under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Trade-Mark Act and the rights of a similar mark registered under the 1920 Trade-Mark Act lies in the fact that the registration under Section 16 of the 1905 Act is stated to be *prima facie* evidence of a secondary meaning (A. 19) whereas, registration under

the 1920 Trade-Mark Act carries no such presumption. (Section 16 of the 1905 Act is not applicable to the 1920 Act, see Sec. A. 21). When the secondary meaning of a term registered under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Trade-Mark Act is challenged, the claimant is required to prove a secondary meaning. There is nothing to indicate that the rules of proof in such a case are different from those required to establish a secondary meaning in a trade-mark registered under the 1920 Trade-Mark Act.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States applied the principles laid down in the "Coca Cola Case" with respect to the ability of a term to acquire a secondary meaning, to terms which were registered under the 1920 Trade-Mark Act, and drew no such distinction as the Trial Court attempted in this case. *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Enamel Corp.*, 95 F. 2d 448, 305 U. S. 315. In the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the "Coca Cola Case" has been cited with approval in a case which involved the acquisition of a secondary meaning by a mark registered under the 1920 Act. *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 106 F. 2d 635; and even in a case in which a trade-name sought to be protected was not registered under any trade-mark act, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has cited with approval the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, with respect to the establishment of a secondary meaning, without noting any distinction because of the registration of "Coca Cola" under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Act. *Beneficial Industrial Loan Corp. v. Kline*, 132 F. 2d 520.

In the Circuit Court of Appeals, it was argued by the Respondent that the foregoing quotation from the

case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, supra, was mere dicta, and that the question of secondary meaning was not under consideration when that case was argued and determined. This objection is not well taken. From the notes on the "Coca Cola Case" found in 65 L. Ed. at pages 190 and 191, it appears that the claimant in the case asserted that "The name 'Coca Cola' is a valid trade-mark, acquired by priority of adoption * * * which by association and extensive use in fact identifies the product of petitioner exclusively"; and the Respondent made the contention that, "The words 'Coca Cola' are not a valid trade-mark * * * as to the character of proof required to establish a secondary meaning of descriptive words, * * *."

In the Circuit Court of Appeals, the Respondent also argued that the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, supra, was overruled by the decision in the case of *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, supra. There is nothing in the opinion of the Court in the latter case to indicate that it was its intention to modify or overrule its opinion in the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, supra; and since the decision in the "Shredded Wheat Case," the "Coca Cola Case" has been quoted and cited with approval by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 106 F. 2d 635; *Beneficial Industrial Loan Corp. v. Kline*, 132 F. 2d 520; and *Cleo Syrup Corp. v. Coca Cola Co.*, 139 F. 2d 416; and the "Coca Cola Case" has also been cited with approval by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Dixie Cola Lab. v. Coca Cola Co.*, 4th C. C. A., 117 F. 2d 352, 254.

4. The term "Raisin Bran" was capable of acquiring a secondary meaning.

In the case at bar, the Petitioner is not claiming the term "Raisin Bran" as a technical trade-mark, but predicates its rights upon the establishment of a secondary meaning (T. 4).

The evidence showed that the term "Raisin-BRAN," standing alone, was not in common use, had no precise meaning to the consuming public and had not been used by others to designate breakfast food products prior to the time that Petitioner adopted and claimed it as a trade-mark for its product (see pages 31 and 32, *supra*).

The evidence also showed (T. 496, 497), and both the Trial Court and the Court of Appeals found that other appropriate names were available by which competitors might aptly designate their competing products (52 F. S. 452).

The right to appropriate the term "Raisin Bran" for a trade name must be determined as of the time of its first appropriation. *Wellcome v. Thompson & Capper*, 1 L. R. Chan. Div. (1904) 736, 742, 749, 750, 754; *Keasby v. Chemical Works*, 142 N. Y. 467, 471, 474, 475, 476, 37 N. E. 476.

The findings of the Trial and of the Appellate Court that the term "Raisin Bran" was incapable of acquiring a secondary meaning (F. 25, T. 115, T. VI, pp. 8-9, 52 F. S. pp. 445-448) were predicated upon the following cases: *Canal Co. v. Clark*, 13 Wall. 311; *Standard Paint Co. v. Trinidad Asphalt Co.*, 220 U. S. 446; *Howe Scale Co. v.*

Wyckoff, Seamans & Benedict, 198 U. S. 118; *William R. Warner & Co. v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 265 U. S. 526; *Elgin National Watch Co. v. Illinois Watch Co.*, 179 U. S. 665; *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, and *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Enamel Corp.*, 305 U. S. 315 (T. VI, pp. 8, 9, 10; 52 F. S. 432). The Trial Court also cited, at this point, Sec. 721, Vol. 3, Restatement of the Law of Torts.

These cases are not in point with the case at bar on the question now under discussion. In the case of *Canal Co. v. Clark*, *supra*, the Court held that a geographical term could not be appropriated as a trade-mark. The Supreme Court in that case was referring to a technical trade-mark; the case was decided in 1871, which was a year before the doctrine of secondary meaning was first applied by the British House of Lords to a geographical name,⁴ and fifteen years before the Courts of Equity recognized that a term composed of descriptive or generic words might acquire a secondary meaning.⁵

Section 721, Vol. 3, Restatement of the Law of Torts, says that "a designation cannot be a trade-mark for goods if it is likely to be regarded by prospective purchasers as a common name or generic name for such goods, or as descriptive of them or of their ingredients, quality, properties, functions or uses." In this text the word "trade-mark" is used to indicate a technical trade-mark as opposed to terms which contain descriptive or generic

4 *Wotherspoon v. Currie*, 5 L. R. Eng. & Irl. App. 508 (1872); *Derenberg*, Trade-Mark Protection, p. 553.

5 *Reddaway v. Banham*, 13 R. P. C. 218 (1896).

words.⁶ In Sec. 716, Restatement of the Law of Torts it is specifically stated that a trade term such as "Raisin-BRAN" may acquire a secondary meaning, as to numerous cases which are in point with the case at bar.⁷

In the case of *Standard Paint Co. v. Trinidad Asphalt Mfg. Co.*, supra, no secondary meaning was shown, and the question was whether "Rubberoid" could be considered a technical trade-mark. The case of *Howe Scale Co. v. Wyckoff, Seamans & Benedict*, supra, was decided in 1904 and related to the use of a family surname.

In the case of *W. R. Warner & Co. v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, supra, the Respondents were not using the exact term claimed by the Petitioner; in the case at bar Petitioner seeks to enjoin the use of the exact term, not the use of "Raisin" or the use of "Bran" in some other collocation (T. 4).

In the case of *Elgin National Watch Co. v. Illinois Watch Co.*, supra, decided in 1900, the Supreme Court

6 Substantial confusion often arises in analyzing trade-mark and trade name cases by reason of the fact that some of the Courts have not used distinctive designations for technical trade-marks and marks which have acquired a secondary meaning through long and exclusive use. This confusion is emphasized by the use of the word "trade-mark" in the Federal Trade-Mark Act to designate both technical trade-marks and marks which are registered under the ten-year clause of the 1905 Act. The compilers of Restatement of the Law of Torts have distinguished between the technical trade-mark and the mark which has acquired a secondary meaning by designating the first class as trade-marks and the other class as trade names. "When a trade name denominates goods and is affixed to them, there is as a practical matter, little legal difference between it and a trade-mark. Such a trade name is frequently called a trade-mark * * *." Vol. 3, Restatement, Law of Torts, p. 560.

7 *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, 41 S. Ct. 113, 65 L. Ed. 189; *Nashville Syrup Co. v. Coca Cola Co.*, 215 F. 627; *Rawlinson v. Brainard & Armstrong Co.*, 28 Misc. Rep. 287, 59 N. Y. S. 880; *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 125 N. J. Eq. 316, 5 A. 2d 49; *R. Guastavino Co. v. Comerma*, 180 F. 920, 184 F. 549; *Fell v. American Serum Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 16 F. 2d 88; *Shaler Co. v. Rite-Way Products, Inc.*, 107 F. 2d 82; *Industrial Rayon Corp. v. Dutchess Underwear Corp.*, 92 F. 2d 33; *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 29 F. 2d 474; *Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635.

held that only technical trade-marks could lawfully be registered under the Trade-Mark Act of 1881 and that registration of a geographical term under that Act did not give the United States Courts jurisdiction over cases involving the alleged infringement of the registered term. Later the term "Elgin" was found to have acquired a secondary meaning which entitled its owner to protection against infringement. *Elgin National Watch Co. v. Loveland*, C. C. Ia. 1904, 132 F. 41.

The difference in governing facts between the case of *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, supra, and its inapplicability to the case at bar has been pointed out on pages 34 to 38 supra of this Brief.

In the *Nu-Enamel Case*, supra, the Supreme Court granted protection to a term composed of words found to be descriptive of the product to which the term was applied, because the respondent had admitted that the term "Nu-Enamel" had acquired the secondary meaning claimed by the petitioner, and the Court held that the appropriation of such a term under such circumstances should be enjoined. The *Nu-Enamel Case* also shows that the Trial Court's holding that registration of the term "Raisin-Bran" under the 1920 Trade-Mark Act was void (C. 11, T. 126), is erroneous. *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Co. v. Nu-Enamel Corporation*, 305 U. S. 315, 327-332.

Opposed to the conclusions of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case at bar, we find in the following cases that terms composed of words descriptive of elements or of qualities or uses of a product, have been held capable of acquiring a secondary meaning. "Koke," *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143; "Coca Cola,"

Nashville Syrup Co. v. Coca Cola Co., 6th C. C. A., 215 F. 527; "Filo Floss," *Rawlinson v. Brainard & Armstrong Co.*, 28 Misc. Rep. 287, 59 N. Y. S. 880; "Cocomalt," *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 125 N. J. Eq. 306, 5 A. 2d 49; "Cohesive Tile," *R. Guastavino Co. v. Comerma*, 180 F. 920, 184 F. 549; "Wormix," *Feil v. American Serum Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 16 F. 2d 88; "Hot-Patch," *Shaler v. Rite-Way Products, Inc.*, 6th C. C. A., 107 F. 2d 82; "Spunlo," *Industrial Rayon Corp. v. Dutchess Underwear Corp.*, 2nd C. C. A., 92 F. 2d 22; "Dyanshine," *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 3rd C. C. A., 29 F. 2d 474; and "Run-R-Stop," *Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635. Thus it appears that the decision of the Eighth Circuit Court in this case conflicts with previous decisions of that Court in *Cleo Syrup Corp v. Coca Cola Co.*, supra, and *Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, supra, and also with decisions of the Second, Third and Sixth Circuit Courts of Appeals, and State Courts of New York and New Jersey, as well as with the Supreme Court of the United States in the *Nu-Enamel Case*, supra.

In finding and concluding that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning because it was composed of two words each descriptive of important component parts of the product to which the term was applied, both the Trial Court and the Circuit Court of Appeals laid special emphasis upon the fact that "bran flakes" was the common name for the cereal portion of Petitioner's product (52 F. S. 432, 448; T. VI-7); and in both Courts below the Respondent argued that because the word "bran" was a part of the Petitioner's trademark and had been long used by the Respondent to describe its products of like character to the cereal portion of Petitioner's product, the term "Raisin-BRAN" in

its entirety could not acquire a secondary meaning so as to be subject to protection against infringement. No cases, however, were cited to support such a contention and the cases in which that question has been raised have held otherwise. In the case of *Dixie Cola Laboratories v. Coca Cola Co.*, 4th C. C. A., 117 F. 2d 352, it was held that the word "cola" was open to all manufacturers of soft drinks, but it was definitely stated: "No one else can lawfully use the word "Coca Cola" for a trade-mark even though it originally may have been a descriptive name." To the same effect is the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Delaware in the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Nehi Corp.*, 36 A. 2d 156. We also find that in the case of *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 125 N. J. Eq. 316, 5 A. 2d 49, the word "Cocomalt" was applied to a product which was a combination of cocoa and malt and the term was held to have acquired a secondary meaning and be entitled to protection against infringement of the exact combination. The same ruling prevailed in the case of "Cohesive Tile." *R. Guastavino Co. v. Comerma*, 184 F. 549. In the case of *Carson Corp. v. Condee, Ltd.*, 213 N. Y. S. 735, 736, it was held that the claimant had the right to protection in the use of the term "Black Narcissus" as applied to a perfume even though the term was descriptive of characteristics or component parts of the perfume; and the Court pointed out that, "A phrase or combination of words may be entitled to absolute protection while the use of its component parts may be open to everyone."

The fact that the Petitioner's product came to be known in the trade and to the consuming public by its trade-mark was no reason for holding that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning. In the case of *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 29 F. 2d 474, the Cir-

cuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit pointed out that there is a difference between the use of the term as a designation or name for the product and its use in a purely descriptive sense: "Moreover, the complainants have satisfied us that on a definite and unequivocal finding of fact of this kind the law affords the remedy of injunction against the use of words which in instances such as this have acquired only a secondary meaning when those words are used as the name of a product as distinguished from their use in describing it." *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, supra, page 475.

In the case at bar, the Petitioner at all times claimed the term "Raisin-BRAN" as its trade-mark, and from the time that it was registered in 1926, stated on each package of the product that "Raisin-BRAN" was its trade-mark (T. 163; A9); and on each carton for many years the contents of the package have been described in large red letters on the face of the label as "Whole Wheat Flakes With Raisins, Bran and Salt Added" (F. 21, T. 113). Mr. Justice Holmes in his discussion of the rights of the Coca Cola Company in the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, 145, said: "The name now characterizes a beverage to be had at almost any soda fountain * * *. Coca Cola probably means to most persons the plaintiff's familiar product to be had everywhere rather than a compound of particular substances." In this manner, Justice Holmes made it clear that a secondary meaning was established when the trade-mark became identified in the public mind as the name of the product and not as a mere description of its contents.

Section 727, Restatement of the Law of Torts, page 587, reads: "One uses a designation in the manner of a

trade-mark or trade name, under the rule stated in Section 717 if he so uses it that prospective purchasers are likely to regard it as the name of or the means of identifying, his goods, services, or business." The matter is well summed up in the following: "Trade names for popular products, as used by one manufacturer, may become so widely known as sometimes to be used as a synonym for the generic name itself. Striking examples of this are such names as 'Kodak' and 'Vaseline.' Both of these are defined in the dictionary, and yet they are trade-marks, the use of which by any one outside the firms which have originated them would constitute an infringement. The fact that a large part of the public may associate a trade name with the generic name for a product is a tribute to the skill with which the firm has popularized the name. To put a penalty upon such skill and to say that the generalization of the trade name by the public as a result of the originator's publicity must deprive him of his monopoly in the name would, in the absence of special circumstances, be the height of injustice." *H. A. Metz Laboratories v. Blackman*, 275 N. Y. S. 407, 414.

The Respondent argued in the Lower Court that the Petitioner had used the term "Raisin-BRAN" in a purely descriptive sense and not as a trade-mark, and to support its contention, the Respondent cited extracts from the cases of *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, and *DuPont Cellophane Co. v. Waxed Products Co.*, 85 F. 2d 75. In this Brief, it has already been pointed out (p. 34, supra) that when the National Biscuit Company and its predecessors first used the term "Shredded Wheat" they did not use it as a trade-mark, but had other trade-marks and used the term "Shredded Wheat" as descriptive of their product; and the Court

held that after such use the term had become *publici juris* and could not be recaptured unless it could be shown that subsequently the name signified the producer rather than the product. In the case of *DuPont Cellophane Company v. Waxed Products Co.*, 85 F. 2d 75, the same thing occurred. The predecessors of DuPont Company and DuPont Company itself first used the name "Cellophane" as descriptive of the product and not as its trade-mark. The extracts from the opinions of the Courts in the "Shredded Wheat" and "Cellophane" cases must be read with the above facts in mind and with the realization that in the case at bar the term "Raisin-BRAN" was at all times claimed by the Petitioner as a trade-mark. In fact, the Circuit Court of Appeals in its opinion said: "The Appellant has done all that could be done to appropriate 'Raisin-Bran' as the trade-mark of its product. In 1926, it registered the name as a trade-mark under the Trade-Mark Act of March 19, 1920. In its advertising and on the packages in which the product was sold, Appellant claimed the name as its trade-mark for the product" (T. VI-5). Because of these acts of the Petitioner and the fact that the term "Raisin-BRAN," standing alone, had not been a well-known term in the language prior to its adoption by the Petitioner, and because it was not applied to a patented product, the term "Raisin-BRAN" was capable of acquiring a secondary meaning even though it was descriptive of the two principal ingredients of the product.

"There can be no doubt that the plaintiff's corporate name is descriptive of the kind of places in which its business is conducted. Whether or not the name has acquired a secondary meaning, within the sense described, is a question of fact. We think that in this case the

existence of the fact has been established." *Little Tavern Shops v. Davis*, 4th C. C. A., 116 F. 2d 906.

The chief difficulty confronting a Court when passing upon the merits of claims made in a trade-mark or trade name case is what appears on the surface to be an apparent conflict of authorities. Extracts can be found from various cases to support almost any proposition urged pro or con; but the fact remains that if one examines the facts in the various cases and examines the reasons for the application of the various rules, it will be discovered that no extract from any one case can be cited as authority in another case unless it is clear that the facts upon which the quotation is predicated are substantially identical.

In Note 22 of the Appendix it is pointed out wherein the cases cited by the Trial Court or advanced by Respondent in support of the conclusion and finding that "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning (and did not acquire a secondary meaning), are distinguishable from the case at bar.

Statements taken from opinions in cases where the controlling facts are different from the controlling facts in the case at bar are not authority for overruling and ignoring the cases cited by the Petitioner in support of Petitioner's claim that the term "Raisin-BRAN," as used by the Appellant in connection with its dry prepared breakfast food cereal, was capable of acquiring a secondary meaning.⁸

In citing *Standard Paint Co. v. Trinidad Asphalt Mfg. Co.*, *infra*, as authority for its conclusion that the

⁸ See Note 24, *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Enamel Corp.*, 305 U. S. 315, 335, 83 L. Ed. 195, 205.

term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning, the Court of Appeals said: "A contention that a descriptive name had acquired a secondary meaning under a comparable state of facts was rejected by this Court and by the Supreme Court in *Trinidad Asphalt Mfg. Co. v. Standard Paint Co.*, 8th Cir., 163 F. 977, affirmed in 220 U. S. 466" (T. VI-9). This statement of the Court of Appeals (1) that the question of acquisition of a secondary meaning was involved in the *Trinidad Asphalt Company Case*, and (2) that the facts in the *Trinidad Asphalt Company Case* are comparable with the facts in this case, is erroneous, vide: (1) An examination of the opinions of the Circuit Court and of the Supreme Court in the *Trinidad Asphalt Company Case* shows that the question was whether or not the term "Ruberoid" was entitled to protection as a technical trade-mark because it was registered under the Trade-Mark Act of 1881,—and the question of secondary meaning was not properly involved in the case; (2) In the *Trinidad Asphalt Company Case*, the Circuit Court of Appeals found that merely leaving out a "b" from the word "rubberoid" did not change the word in such manner as to entitle the claimant to the exclusive use of the misspelled word. The Court further pointed out that when the claimant first adopted the term "Ruberoid" as a trade-mark for its rubberlike roofing, "there were about forty other concerns engaged in that business, many of whose products resembled those of complainant and defendant, and because they possessed some of the characteristics of India rubber, were called and known as 'rubber roofings,' though in none of them was rubber an ingredient * * * the word 'rubberoid' * * * was a part of our common vocabulary long before the complainant began operations. The suffix 'oid' signifies likeness or resemblance of the thing indicated by the word to which it is attached * * *."

In the case at bar, prior to its adoption, the term "Raisin-BRAN" had not been used as a designation for any product and was not in itself a term common to the language at the time of its adoption by the Petitioner. There were no competitors with similar products and the term "Raisin-BRAN" was not the generic name of the product to which it was applied at the time of its adoption by the Petitioner, the combination of the words, standing alone, was new.

In citing the case of *Standard Paint Co. v. Trinidad Asphalt Mfg. Co.*, supra, the Court of Appeals overlooked Note 24 in the opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Enamel Corp.*, 305 U. S. 315, 335.

5. A trade-mark or trade name may acquire a secondary meaning during the time it is applied to a product which has no competition.

The Trial Court concluded that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning during the time that Petitioner's product was marketed in a non-competitive field and predicated this conclusion upon a quotation from *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 6th C. C. A., 235 F. 657, 666 (52 F. S. 432, 448-449).

An examination of the quotation from the *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Company Case*, supra, shows that the quotation appearing in the opinion of the Trial Court in this case was predicated upon a quotation from one of the opinions delivered in the House of Lords in the case of *Cellular Clothing Co., Ltd., v. Maxton & Murray*, 16 R. P. C. 397, 80 Law Times 809. An examination of the

reports of the case in the House of Lords shows that the facts upon which the decision is predicated were not stated. This was an appeal from the Scottish High Court of Justice. An examination of the opinion in the Scottish Court shows that the term "cellular cloth" had not been used as the trade-mark for the claimant's product and that there had been competition in the market during the period when it was claimed that a secondary meaning arose:

"The inventor or first maker of the fabric was their managing director, Mr. Haslam, who began the manufacture in 1886 and who first put it upon the market as 'Kershaw's Cellular Cloth.' But the pursuer's company was formed in 1888, and I think it may be taken that the fabric began thereafter to be known in the market under the name of 'Cellular Cloth.' There is no question of patent. Mr. Haslam states that he applied for and obtained a patent, but if so, it is not now in force. Neither is there any question of trade-mark. The pursuers have a registered trade-mark which they partially use, of which the word 'Aertex' is the essential part. The word 'Cellular' has not been registered by itself or as a part of the trade-mark, nor was it I think suggested that it could be so. * * * The defender, Mr. Maxton, states—and I see no reason to disbelieve him—* * * that * * * he had for some years been acquainted with 'cellular cloth' as a description of clothing in the market which had been repeatedly offered under that name by a Scottish manufacturer." (The plaintiff, Cellular Clothing Company, was a British manufacturer.)

Cellular Clothing Co. v. Maxton & Murray, 35
Sc. L. R. 869, 870.

It thus appears that the quotation from the opinion of one of the Justices in the House of Lords upon which the lower Court predicated its conclusion that a trade

term could not acquire a secondary meaning when it was applied to a product during the time it had no competition in the market, was mere dicta. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals recognized that the quotation from the *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Case*, supra, which was relied upon by the Trial Court in this case, was erroneous and corrected the matter in Note 3 to its decision in the case of *Saalfeld Publishing Company v. C. & G. Merriam Co.*, 238 F. 1, 9, where the Court said:

“Where an article is put out under a trade name which, although it must be called descriptive, is yet also something more than merely descriptive, and where the public is free to compete in the same article, and in the same name but for a long period refrains from both, this seems to the writer the ideal soil in which the secondary meaning may grow into effective existence. The name points to one maker only, without confusion or uncertainty, and is a sure ‘badge of origin.’”

In cases involving the following descriptive trade names, the Courts have held that a secondary meaning was established during the time that the owner of the trade name had no competition for his product: “Dyan-shine,” *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 2 F. 2d 404, 406, aff. 3rd C. C. A., 29 F. 2d 474; “Coca-Cola,” *Nashville Syrup Co. v. Coca Cola Co.*, 6th C. C. A., 215 F. 527; *Coca Cola Co. v. Old Dominion Beverage Works*, 4th C. C. A., 271 F. 600; “Bromo-Caffeine,” *Keasby v. Brooklyn Chemical Works*, 142 N. Y. 467, 37 N. E. 476.

6. The Trial Court erred in its conclusions as to the quantum of proof necessary to establish a secondary meaning.

In the opinion of the Trial Court appears the following:

“The plaintiff in support of its resort to the secondary meaning doctrine relies upon several elements which have been judicially rejected in well reasoned cases. Among these, without grouping them exactly as the plaintiff does, are: (a) An exclusive and long continued use of its designation during a period when no competitor was in the field, vide: Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co., 6 Cir., 235 F. 657, 665, 666; Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co., 305 U. S. 111, 118, 119, 59 S. Ct. 109, 83 L. Ed. 73, 78; (b) a wide distribution of its product, vide: Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co., supra, and Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co., supra; (c) a wide advertising campaign and large expenditures for advertising the product under the designation, vide: Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co., supra; DuPont Cellophane Co. v. Waxed Products Co., supra; and (d) identification of the product by its designation on the part of a substantial portion of the purchasing public; understanding by a substantial portion of the purchasing public and most of the retail and wholesale trade that the name signifies a single thing coming from a single source and covers a product made and distributed exclusively by the person who claims the brand, a recognition in the product of superior quality or excellence by a substantial portion of the purchasing public, vide: Restatement, Torts, supra; Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co., supra; DuPont Cellophane Co. v. Waxed Products Co., supra; Chivers & Sons v. Chivers & Co., Ltd., 17 R. P. C. 420; Cellular Clothing Co. v. Maxton & Murray, L. R. A. 326; 16 R. P. C. 397, 68 L. J., P. C. 72, 80 L. T. Rep. 809.”

Skinner Mfg Co. v. General Foods Sales Co., 52 F. S. 432, 448.

That portion of the above quotation from the Trial Court's Opinion which is indicated as subsection (d) is directly contrary to the opinion of the Supreme Court of

the United States in the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, 146, and shows clearly that the Trial Court predicated its finding that no secondary meaning had been established, upon its conclusion of law that the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, supra, did not apply to the case at bar. The distinctions between the cases cited by the Court in the foregoing extract from its Opinion, and the case at bar, are pointed out in other portions of this Brief as follows: *Restatement of the Law of Torts* (pp. 43 and 47, supra); *Kellogg Company v. National Biscuit Company* (pp. 34 and 49, supra, and Notes 12, 15, 19 of Appendix 22); *DuPont Cellophane Co. v. Waxed Products Co.* (p. 49 and Notes 15 and 16 of Appendix 22); *Chivers & Sons v. Chivers & Co., Ltd.*, (Note 16 of Appendix 12); *Cellular Clothing Co. v. Maxton & Murray* (Notes 15, 16 and 17 of Appendix 22, and p. 54, supra); *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co.* (Notes 12, 15, 17, of Appendix 22, and pp. 56-57, supra.

These conclusions of the Trial Court set out in the above quotation from its opinion are contrary to many adjudicated cases wherein it has been held that proof of such a character is sufficient to establish secondary meaning in terms which are capable of acquiring such meaning. The following cases hold that the existence of a secondary meaning may be proved by showing that the claimant has had the exclusive use of its trade name as applied to its product for a substantial period of time, and that during such time a large and extensive volume of business in the product has been developed; *New England Awl & Needle Co. v. Marlboro Awl and Needle Co.*, 168 Mass 154, 46 N. E. 387; *Birmingham Vinegar Brewing Co. v. Powell*, A. C., House of Lords 1897, p. 710, 66 L. J. (Ch.) N. S. 763; *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 2 F. 2d 402.

Other authorities have considered such facts together with large advertising expenditures to be sufficient proof; *Derenberg, Trade-Mark Protection*, p. 355; *Holt v. Metropolitan Refining Co.*, 9 F. S. 662; *Grocers Baking Co. v. Sigler*, 132 F. 2d 498; *Keasby v. Brooklyn Chemical Works*, 142 N. Y. 467, 37 N. E. 476; *Coca-Cola Co. v. Old Dominion Beverage Corporation*, 271 F. 601, 602; *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 125 N. J. E. 316, 5 A. 2d 49, 50; and some Courts have considered that in addition to the foregoing, the fact that a claimant has made the product to which it applied the term popular with the public, is of particular significance in considering the question of secondary meaning. *Keasby v. Brooklyn Chemical Works*, 142 N. Y. 467, 37 N. E. 476; *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 106 F. 2d 635, 638.

Except in the case of *Grocers Baking Co. v. Sigler*, supra, all of the cases just cited in favor of the Petitioner's claim indicate that the secondary meaning was predicated upon the evidence of the activities of the claimant and the success of its business and not upon any testimony of the wholesalers, retailers and consumers; and in the case of *Grocers Baking Co. v. Sigler*, supra, the latter kind of testimony was very scant.

7. The Trial Court erred when it concluded that credible testimony of sales representatives of the Petitioner, with wide experience dealing with the trade, to the effect that in the mind of the consuming public the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's particular product, and similar testimony of wholesale and retail grocers with wide experience in the trade, was incompetent as proof of a secondary meaning.

During the progress of the trial, 4 of Petitioner's sales representatives with wide experience in the trade

(T. 261, 266, 336, 337), and 31 wholesale grocers with equally broad experience (A. 5c), testified that prior to the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant the petitioner's product, both in the wholesale and retail trade. The Trial Court admitted this evidence over the objection of the defendant that it was incompetent, but in its opinion said: "In passing it may be remarked that the Court has not regarded as persuasive certain alleged expert testimony offered by the plaintiff from among (a) its own salesmen and representatives, and (b) miscellaneous merchants, wholesale and retail, largely customers of the plaintiff. Upon mature examination it is regarded as incompetent" (52 F. S. 448).

Under the Law Merchant the Courts frequently rely upon testimony of this character, holding that testimony of those shown to be familiar with a particular trade and its terms is admissible to prove the understanding in the trade with respect to the meaning of such terms. In the case of *Reddaway v. Banham*, L. R. 1896, A. C. 199, 205 the Court said: "To me, or to other persons not familiar with the trade, this (the term 'Camel's Hair' as applied to belting) undoubtedly does seem simply a description of the article sold and not a representation of it being made by a manufacturer. But then, I should not know, what persons engaged in the trade would know, how far particular words, even though descriptive of the article sold, may have acquired a kind of technical signification which would give to them in the trade as completely the character of being made by a particular manufacturer as if they were stamped with his trade mark." To the same effect is *Hygeia Distilled Water Co. v. Hyggeia Ice Co.*, 70 Conn. 516, 40 At. 534, 539.

8. The term "Raisin-BRAN" had acquired a secondary meaning prior to the time that the Respondent appropriated the term as a designation for its competing product, and the term at that time was not a free word; and the Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it held that it was bound by the Trial Court's finding on that issue.

It has been pointed out in a previous portion of this Brief (pages 31 to 33, supra) that prior to the time that the Petitioner coined the term "Raisin-BRAN," standing alone, and adopted it as its trade-mark, the term had no particular meaning in the public mind and might have meant almost anything; but surely did not instantly suggest to the public that it was a dry prepared breakfast food.

Definition of Secondary Meaning

In the Lower Courts the Respondent urged that the very fact that "Raisin-BRAN" had no particular meaning prior to its adoption by Petitioner made it impossible for it to acquire a secondary meaning. This argument shows a misconception of the true significance of the term "secondary meaning" as it is used by the Courts in trade-mark cases. The term "secondary meaning" is a survival of a legal term adopted and used by the Courts before it was recognized that terms composed of words descriptive of the contents or uses of a product were capable of acquiring a secondary meaning. As applied to a term such as "Raisin-BRAN," a secondary meaning does not import that the term "Raisin-BRAN" (as opposed to the words of which it is composed) must have an established primary meaning before it may be adopted as a trade-mark and acquire a secondary meaning. The term "secondary meaning" as applied to such a term merely means that, subsequent to its adoption, the term

must acquire a particular meaning which it did not theretofore possess, and that such meaning must indicate to the public a particular product coming from a single source, whether the source be known or anonymous. That this is so is clear from the fact that in the following cases the following terms which had no particular meanings prior to their adoption were found by the Courts to have acquired secondary meanings: "*Coca Cola*," *Nashville Syrup Co. v. Coca Cola Co.*, 215 F. 527; "*Coco-malt*," *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 125 N. J. Eq. 316, 5 A. 2d 49; "*Cohesive Tile*," *R. Guastavino Co. v. Comerma*, 184 F. 549; "*Filo Floss*," *Rawlinson v. Brainard & Armstrong Co.*, 28 Misc. Rep. 287, 59 N. Y. S. 880; "*Dyan-shine*," *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 29 F. 2d 474; "*Run-R-Stop*," *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635.

Merchandising Methods of Petitioner

In passing upon the question of the evidence offered by the Petitioner to establish a secondary meaning, the Trial Court in its opinion said that the Petitioner's "purpose and design to appropriate its brand name as its exclusive prerogative are manifest from the evidence and have been affirmed in specific findings by the Court" (52 F. S. 432, 447, 448). In its findings the Trial Court said, among other things: "From the inception of its marketing of its product known as 'Raisin-BRAN' in the year 1925 until the month of April 1942 * * * when retail merchants or ultimate consumers in the course of their purchases asked for 'Raisin-BRAN,' they were supplied with plaintiff's product" (F. 24, T. 114); "* * * in most instances, prior to April 1942, the consuming public, retailers, and wholesalers in listing, advertising or ordering plaintiff's product, designated it merely as

'Raisin-BRAN.' In most cases prior to April 1942, the consumers, retailers and wholesalers merely called the product 'Raisin-BRAN' when placing an order, either oral or written, and in doing so intended that they should receive the product distributed by the plaintiff" (F. 15, T. 111); "Through its advertising and sales promotion, the plaintiff has developed a public demand for the product" (F. 17, T. 112); "At the time of the commencement of this action and at the time of the inception of competition with plaintiff's product in 1942, and for several years prior thereto, the term 'Raisin-BRAN' to ultimate consumers and to the public generally signified a dry prepared breakfast cereal, including as the principal among its ingredients raisins and a bran type cereal, * * * at all times during the marketing of plaintiff's product, nearly all wholesale dealers in food products and a majority of retail dealers in such products knew that the plaintiff was the distributor of 'Raisin-BRAN' and the only distributor of a product containing like ingredients or having a similar name" (F. 12, T. 108).

In its opinion, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals said: "The Appellant has done all that could be done to appropriate 'Raisin-BRAN' as the trade mark of its product. In 1926 it registered the name as a trade mark under the Trade Mark Act of March 19, 1920. In its advertising and on the packages in which the product was sold, Appellant claimed the name as its trade mark for the product. For 17 years it marketed the product as 'Raisin-BRAN' without competition. It spent large sums of money in advertising and in creating a demand for the product and to build up a large and profitable business in it" (T. VI, p. 5). It is clear from reading the opinions of both the Trial Court and the Circuit Court

of Appeals that their finding that no secondary meaning was established by the Petitioner in the term "Raisin-BRAN" (F. 25, T. 115; T. VI, pp. 8-9) was predicated upon their erroneous conclusions of law (1) that no such term could acquire a secondary meaning, (2) that the term could not acquire a secondary meaning during the period when there was no competitive product in the field, and (3) that the case was governed by the following statement taken from the "Shredded Wheat" case: "But to establish a trade name in the term 'Shredded Wheat,' the plaintiff must show more than a subordinate meaning which applies to it. It must show that the primary significance of the term in the minds of the consuming public is not the product but the producer." *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, 118.

Understanding of Public Required to Establish Secondary Meaning

It has been pointed out in part 2 of this Argument (pages 31 to 33, *supra*) that this was an erroneous conclusion of law, in that the "Shredded Wheat" case was predicated upon the proposition that the term "Shredded Wheat" had become publici juris before the National Biscuit Company sought to appropriate it as a trade-mark, and that the rule as announced in the "Shredded Wheat" case was a rule which applies to cases where the claimant of a trade name is seeking to recapture that name from the public domain, or to appropriate a name which was already in common use at the time the claimant first sought to appropriate it. In part 2 of this Argument (pages 31 to 33), it has been pointed out that in the case at bar the term "Raisin-BRAN" was not in common use when the Petitioner first appropriated it and used it for a trade-mark, and that this

case is governed by the rule laid down in the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Co.*, 254 U. S. 143, 145, in which the Court held: "It hardly would be too much to say that the drink characterizes the name as much as the name the drink. In other words, 'Coca Cola' probably means to most persons the plaintiff's familiar product, to be had everywhere, rather than a compound of particular substances * * *. We see no reason to doubt that, as we have said, it has acquired a secondary meaning in which, perhaps, the product is more emphasized than the producer, but to which the producer is entitled."

It is apparent from reading the Trial Court's Opinion and Findings that the Trial Court considered that it was necessary for the Petitioner to show that the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant to most purchasers "Skinner Manufacturing Company, Omaha, Nebraska" rather than a single product coming from a single source, whether that source was known or anonymous. This was an error. The value of a trade-mark lies in the fact that the public understands that the mark represents a particular single product which the customer wants so that when the customer calls for that product by the trade-mark, he can expect to receive that particular product. It is not the name of the manufacturer which interests the public, but the quality and particular and peculiar characteristics of the product, and when the public knows, that by asking for a particular product by its trade-mark or brand name, it can get the very thing it wants, the name becomes a valuable item of good will.

"* * * a trade name may be the name for goods emanating from a particular source whether known or anonymous * * *." Comment a, Sec. 716, Restatement of the

Law of Torts, pp. 558, et seq. "In the present case it seems to me that 'Yorkshire Relish' meant the manufacture of a particular person. I do not mean that in the minds of the public the name of the manufacturer was identified, but that it meant a particular manufacture, and that when a person is sold 'Yorkshire Relish,' as the defendant did, by selling it as 'Yorkshire Relish,' and calling it 'Yorkshire Relish,' he represented to the public that it was the manufacture which was known as and by the name of 'Yorkshire Relish,' " *Birmingham Vinegar Brewery Co. v. Powell*, A. C. 1897, p. 710, 66 L. J. (Ch.) N. S. 763, 1897 L. R., House of Lords, p. 710. "Secondary meaning may exist between a name and a manufacturer or seller whose identity is not known to the buyer as well as between a name and a manufacturer or dealer who is known to the consumer. There are many specific articles which are constantly asked for by brand name. The buyer seeks the product of some one particular concern. He does not know its name, or its location, or whether it is a corporation or an individual. He only knows he seeks a particular thing known by a name familiar to him." *Nims, Unfair Competition*, Sec. 42, p. 121.

"It is not of controlling importance to the true application of the secondary meaning theory, that the public should appreciate the personal identity of the manufacturer." *Saalfeld Publishing Co. v. C. & G. Merriam Co.*, 238 F. 1, 8.

Testimony Re Understanding of the Public

Most of the testimony on the issue of secondary meaning was taken by deposition, and all of it was taken after the Respondent and Kellogg had commenced in-

tensive radio and newspaper advertising and sales campaigns for the purpose of marketing their competing products under the trade name "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 1).

Fourteen consumer witnesses testified that the mark "Raisin-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's product (A. 3i), and 30 of the 86 consumer witnesses who had knowledge of "Raisin-Bran," knew that "Raisin-BRAN" was a product of the Petitioner (A. 3c) and 9 consumers testified that although they did not know the name of the distributor, they did know that prior to the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, there was only one breakfast food product designated "Raisin-BRAN" on the market (A. 3d). Thirty-nine of the consumers witnesses identified the Petitioner's product as the only one they had been accustomed to purchasing as "Raisin-BRAN" and 30 of these 39 knew the name of the distributor (A. 3e, 3f). Seventeen consumers testified that when they wished the Petitioner's product, they asked for "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 3g). Thousands of letters had been received by the Petitioner from the ultimate consumers in all sections of the country, indicating clearly that such persons knew the source of origin of the product "Raisin-BRAN" (F. 20, T. 113).

There were 37 retail grocer witnesses who gave evidence who did a service business and 26 retail grocers testified that before the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, their customers called for the Petitioner's product under the designation "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 4f); 16 retail grocers testified that when their customers asked for just "Raisin-BRAN," they desired the Petitioner's product (A. 4g); 31 retail grocers testified

that the mark "Raisin-Bran" meant the Petitioner's product (A. 4i); and 5 of the Petitioner's sales representatives and 37 wholesale grocers with equally broad experience, testified that prior to the advent of the Post and Kellogg products, the term "RAISIN-BRAN" meant Petitioner's product, both in the wholesale and retail trade (A. 5c, T. 258, 266, 336, 337, 404).

The Trial Court ignored entirely the foregoing positive evidence and gave no heed whatsoever to the credible evidence of the competent witnesses who testified that at the time the Kellogg Company and General Foods put out their products with infringing labels, the term "RAISIN-BRAN" meant the Petitioner's product, and found that "the plaintiff has not established for the name any significance other than descriptive" (52 F. S., p. 448).

On this issue the Court of Appeals said: "The evidence of appellant tended to show that the name had acquired a secondary meaning, while the evidence of appellees tended to show that the name, which was originally descriptive of ingredients of the product, had retained its primary generic meaning. The Trial Court resolved this issue in favor of the appellees, * * * and its determination is binding upon this Court" (T., Vol. VI, pp. 8, 9), and further on, the Court of Appeals said: "Whatever the trade name of 'Raisin Bran' may have meant prior to the advent of appellees' competing products, it is a reasonable conclusion that the words 'Raisin Bran' have at all times meant bran with raisins in it" (T., Vol. VI, p. 10).

From these statements of the Court of Appeals, it is evident that that Court recognized the fact that the Petitioner had produced substantial proof that the term

"Raisin-Bran" had acquired substantial trade-mark significance, but concluded that since it had at the same time acquired a significance as to the characteristics of the product, the trade-mark significance was of no consequence, and a secondary meaning was not established. ,

In the case of *Coca Cola Company v. Koke Company*, 254 U. S. 143, 146, Justice Holmes said: "We see no reason to doubt that, as we have said, it has acquired a secondary meaning in which, perhaps, the product is more emphasized than the producer, but to which the producer is entitled."

It is clear from reading the opinions of the Trial Court and of the Court of Appeals, that both courts overlooked the fact that where a term which is descriptive of important constituents of a product, is used as a trade-mark, it may acquire a dual significance, one which characterizes the product, the other which indicates that it is a single thing coming from a single source, whether known or anonymous, this being the trade-mark significance, and if it has the latter significance, and other apt names are available to competitors, it is entitled to protection against infringement even though it also possesses a significance which characterizes the product.

As in the case of Coca Cola, that is what occurred in the case of Raisin-BRAN; neither term had been used prior to its adoption to designate any product, each term was composed of two words, which were descriptive of two important ingredients of the product; before their appropriation by the respective claimants neither term standing alone meant to the public the particular type of product to which such term was applied; after long exclusive use Coca Cola came to mean a soft drink of which coca and cola were the two principal ingredients, and

Raisin-BRAN came to mean a dry prepared breakfast food of which raisins and bran were two of the principal components (F. 12, T. 108); each term meant a single thing coming from a single source, whether the source was known or anonymous; Coca Cola had acquired a dual significance, one which characterized the product (i. e., a soft drink containing cocoa and cola), and the other of trade-mark significance; and the evidence in this case shows that Raisin Bran has likewise acquired such a dual significance, one which characterizes the product (i. e., a dry prepared breakfast food containing raisins and bran) and the other which is of trade-mark significance.

An excellent illustration of the proof of dual significance is found in the following extract from the Record in this case: "Q. Raisin-bran means to you bran with raisins in it?" "A. It means this package." (Witness points to Exhibit "A"—Petitioner's Package.)

Q. "What is on the package?" "A. Whole wheat flakes with raisins, bran and salt added." "Q. It is a bran cereal with raisins, bran—isn't that right—with raisins in it?" "A. That is right" (T. 365).

The following cases illustrate the fact that a term which contains descriptive words may have a dual significance, one characterizing the product or business to which the term had been applied, and the other of trade-mark significance, and the term will be granted protection under the secondary meaning rule if the trade-mark significance is established and other names are available to competitors.

“There can be no doubt that the plaintiff’s corporate name is descriptive of the kind of places in which its business is conducted, and whether or not the name has acquired a secondary meaning within the sense described, is a question of fact. We think in this case the existence of the fact has been established.” *Little Tavern Shops v. Davis*, 4 Cir., 116 F. 2d 903-906.

See also Note 3, *Saalfeld Publishing Co. v. C. & G. Merriam Co.*, 238 F. 1, 9 (page 55, supra; *Reddaway vs. Banham*, L. R. 1896 A. C. 199, 205 (page 59, supra); *B. V. D. v. Montgomery-Ward Company*, 16 T. M. R. 423.

It is patent that the Trial Court ignored the positive evidence of witnesses who testified that Raisin-Bran meant the Petitioner’s product, because it failed to recognize the fact that the term could acquire a dual significance and still be held to have acquired a secondary meaning which entitles it to protection from infringements. In fact, the Trial Court predicated its conclusion that the Petitioner had failed to establish a secondary meaning upon the following: “Down to, and during the trial of this case, Raisin-Bran to the public generally signified a breakfast cereal, ‘consisting of,’ ‘composed of,’ ‘containing or including’ raisins and bran” (52 F. S. p. 448). The evidence to which the Trial Court adverts in the above quotation, was predicated upon questions propounded by defense counsel, of which the following is a fair example: “Q. What does the term or name ‘Raisin-Bran’ mean to you? (T. 554).

With but one or two exceptions, whenever questions of this character were propounded to the witnesses, it was clear that the answer related to the understanding of the

witnesses at the time the testimony was being taken, which was after the intensive sales and advertising campaigns of General Foods and Kellogg were well under way (A. 12b). That the present tense of the question propounded to the witnesses had a marked affect upon their answers is demonstrated by the fact that a large number of these witnesses who testified that the term "Raisin-Bran" meant "A breakfast cereal composed of raisins and bran," or words to that effect, also testified that before the advent of General Foods and Kellogg products, the term signified the Petitioner's product (A. 12c).

An examination of the evidence of almost all of the witnesses who testified that Raisin-Bran meant a breakfast food composed of raisins and bran, shows that the trade-mark significance of the term was as well known to them as that significance which characterized the product.

It is also apparent from examining the testimony that many of these witnesses were induced to give the answers which they did by leading and suggestive lines of questioning (T. 307, 309, 311, 321, 368-369, 421, 427, 554, 668). In fact, some of this testimony was elicited from witnesses who had never seen nor used Petitioner's product prior to competition (T. 549, 551, 591, 603), or who had practically no knowledge or experience with Petitioner's product before competition (T. 362, 654).

As opposed to the voluminous credible, positive evi-

dence of the trade-mark significance of the term "Raisin-Bran" elicited from among the consumer and retail grocer witnesses, there were only five consumer witnesses who positively testified that the term "Raisin-Bran" did not mean to them the product of any particular manufacturer, or any particular product, and the testimony of these witnesses was all predicated upon their understanding as to the time after General Foods and Kellogg had introduced their competing products on the market (A. 12g); and two of these consumer witnesses made it clear that they understood that before competition "Raisin-Bran" meant the Petitioner's product (T. 545, 664), and two of those consumers testified they had no real knowledge of Petitioner's product before competition (T. 548, 646).

It is submitted that none of this negative evidence impeached the credibility of the Petitioner's witnesses who testified to positive understanding. Under the rules of evidence, such negative testimony was not of sufficient weight to overcome the substantial positive evidence adduced by the Petitioner, which showed that a secondary meaning had been established in Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN." *DeGriselles v. Gans*, 116 Neb. 835, 219 N. W. 235, 239.

The testimony of those who had never heard of the Petitioner's product or who had only recently heard of it, is of no consequence against the positive evidence of those who did know of the product and had purchased it

for some time. *Bergman v. Northern Pac. Ry. Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 14 F. 2d 580, 582.

The negative testimony of those whose memory or power of comprehension was not particularly acute is of little weight against the positive testimony of credible witnesses who had good memories and powers of comprehension. *Window Glass Mach. Co. v. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.*, 46 F. 2d 484, 494; *affd.*, 3rd C. C. A., 284 F. 645. See also *The Fort St. George*, 22 F. 2d 195, syllabus 4; *affid.* 27 F. 2d 728; *cert. denied*, 278 U. S. 654.

The evidence which was the result of leading and suggestive questions which induced the witnesses to give their understanding of the descriptive significance of the term "Raisin-BRAN" after competing products were on the market does not negative the positive testimony of the witnesses to the effect that the term meant the Petitioner's product. *Huffman v. Buckingham Transportation Co. of Colorado*, 10th C. C. A., 98 F. 2d 916, 921.

Amount of Testimony Necessary to Establish Secondary Meaning

In spite of the foregoing, the Trial Court not only held that such evidence was not sufficient to prove a secondary meaning, but in its Opinion said: "The Court has heard and upon this issue has particularly reviewed and reread the oral evidence, both presented through witnesses, appearing personally before the court and submitted by deposition; and it is wholly satisfied that no public understanding either of the plaintiff as the origin of 'Raisin-BRAN' or of 'Raisin-BRAN' as a product of the plaintiff has even nearly been established" (52 F. S. 432, 448).

From this it is clear that the Trial Court erroneously considered that it was necessary to show that practically all of the purchasing public fully appreciated the fact that the term "Raisin-BRAN" was a Skinner product.

The opinions of the Courts in the following cases indicate that secondary meanings were found to exist in cases where there was no testimony whatsoever from ultimate consumers: *New England Awl & Needle Co. v. Marlborough Awl & Needle Co.*, 168 Mass. 154, 46 N. E. 387; *Birmingham Vinegar Brewing Co. v. Powell*, 66 L. J. (Ch.) N. S. 763; *Barton v. Rex Oil Co.*, 2 F. 2d 402; *Derenberg Trade Mark Protection*, p. 335; *Holt v. Metropolitan Refining Co.*, 9 F. 2d 662; *Keasby v. Brooklyn Chemical Co.*, 142 N. Y. 467, 37 N. E. 476; *Coca Cola Co. v. Old Dominion Beverage Corp.*, 271 F. 601, 602; *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 126 N. J. E. 316, 5 A. 2d 49, 50; *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 106 F. 2d 635. In cases where evidence of consumers or other witnesses was used to prove the secondary meaning, the Courts did not require a plethora of consumer, wholesaler and retailer witnesses, but were satisfied with scant testimony of that character, "The record shows without contradiction that the words 'Honey-Krust' have acquired a secondary meaning throughout the State of Kentucky, and have come to signify the product of appellant, both to the consuming public and to dealers generally. This was testified to by a qualified disinterested witness, as well as by several employees of the Appellant." *Grocers Baking Co. v. Sigler*, 6th C. C. A., 132 F. 2d 498. "A trade mark owner will usually summon as witnesses his former employees, as well as those engaged at the time of the proceedings, his agents, traveling salesmen, and possibly even customers."

Derenberg Trade Mark Protection, p. 337. In fact, in a case in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals the Court held that the existence of a secondary meaning was established through customers who testified that they had patronized the defendant's store in the belief that it was the claimant's. *Little Tavern Shops v. Davis*, 4th C. C. A., 16 F. 2d 903, 906.

In an article written by Dr. Martin Wassermann, which appears in 24 United States Trade Mark Association Bulletin, No. 6, p. 157, there is a discussion of the "Gervais Cheese Case" as to the proof necessary to entitle the owner of a trade-mark to protection against infringement. In that case it was contended that because a large number of members of the consuming public had forgotten or did not appreciate the fact that the name "Gervais" indicated the source of origin of the cheese, that therefore the term did not have a secondary meaning, and the Supreme Court of Germany in that case said: "A large circle of consumers had in the course of time become accustomed to seeing in the word 'Gervais' an indication of quality; * * * however, on the part of the so-called better class of public concerned with the consumption of genuine 'Gervais', the remembrance of the different places of manufacture had not yet been obliterated; that, moreover, this circle of consumers even now when purchasing 'Gervais' expected a cheese of definite origin. * * * It is sufficient that a not inconsiderable part of the public concerned sees in the word its original meaning." 24 U. S. Trade Mark Association Bulletin, p. 157. (By "original meaning" the Court meant "trade mark significance.")

In the same article, discussing the "Saccharino Case," the Supreme Court of Germany is quoted, viz.: "There is

no change into a trade name⁹ so long as a part of the trade circle, be it only of persons who are familiar with the business of the mark in question and the meaning of the word, regard it as an indication of such manufacture. Whether the circle of consumers in general are aware of the fact that the complainant has a trade mark and that it has had a monopoly * * * in the production of sugars is unimportant. The meaning of a trade mark to the consumer does not consist in the fact that the buying public knows from what source the goods originate, but that the mark offers to it a guarantee of the uniform derivation of the goods in question; it thus knows that it has before it the same goods when it sees the same mark on the same article." 24 *U. S. Trade Mark Association Bulletin*, pp. 158-159.

"Raisin-BRAN" Did Not Become Publici Juris

The Respondent in the Lower Courts predicated part of its argument that the term "Raisin-BRAN" had not acquired a secondary meaning upon the cases of *Bayer Co. v. United Drug Co.*, 272 F. 505, and *Dry Ice Corp. of America v. Louisiana Dry Ice Corp.*, 54 F. 2d 882, cert. den. 286 U. S. 558. These cases, however, are not in point with the case at bar. In the case of *Bayer Co. v. United Drug Co.*, supra, the word "Aspirin" had become a free term to the consuming public and had failed to acquire a secondary meaning because the producer of the product had permitted various manufacturing chemists to put out the product with their own names as part of the designation, thereby using the word "Aspirin" in a purely descriptive sense and using their own names to indicate the sources of origin; but the Court did hold that a secondary meaning had been established as between the manufacturer and wholesalers because the manufacturer had

9 "Trade name" is used here as synonymous with free name.

used the term as its trade-mark in selling its product to manufacturing chemists. In the "Dry Ice Case" there were competitors in the field who described their competing products by other names than dry ice, which was the trade name of the complainant, but the name was such an apt description that the public on its own volition and without the encouragement or suggestion of competitors, applied the term to the competitors' products as well as to the product of the original user of the term. In the case at bar, however, there was nothing done by the claimant which amounted to a dedication of the word to the public or was designed to lead the public to believe that the term indicated other than a single thing coming from a single source which, before competition, was the Petitioner (F. 15, T. 110-111).

General Foods Company and Kellogg Company, however, by use of the term as though it were descriptive, to wit, "Post's Raisin Bran" and "Kellogg's Raisin Bran," and by sudden and intensive sales and advertising campaigns (52 F. S. 437, 438) did their best to convince the consuming public that the term "Raisin-BRAN" was descriptive of their products and applied thereto as well as to the Petitioner's product, and in this manner they attempted, by infringement and unfair competition, to make Petitioner's term "Raisin-BRAN" a free word. Surely no rule of equity will justify holding that Petitioner's trade name "Raisin-Bran" became a free word, open to use by the infringers because of wrongful acts of the infringers.

The right of the Respondent to appropriate the trade-mark of the Petitioner must be measured by the situation which existed with respect to the term at the time that the Respondent and Kellogg first infringed

the Petitioner's trade-mark and not after they had done their best to destroy the secondary meaning which Petitioner had established in the mark through seventeen years' exclusive use of the mark and through extensive and expensive advertising and sales campaigns. It has been pointed out, *supra*, that the Trial Court predicated its finding that no secondary meaning had been established upon an analysis of the testimony which was predicated upon such erroneous conclusions of law.

Court of Appeals Erred in Refusing to Review Evidence

This being the case, under its own decisions, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it refused to review the Trial Court's Finding that the Petitioner had failed to establish a secondary meaning. *Aetna Life Ins. Co. v. Kepler*, 8th C. C. A., 116 F. 2d 1, 5. But even if this finding of the Trial Court were not predicated upon erroneous conclusions of law, the testimony upon which the Trial Court predicated its finding was not of a nature which could be truly called conflicting. This testimony came from 86 consumer witnesses (A 3), only 5 of whom appeared before the Court in person (T. 331, 331, 509, 509, 580) from 61 retail grocer witnesses (A 4), all of whose testimony was given by deposition, from 35 wholesale grocers witnesses (A. 5), only 2 of whom appeared before the Court in person (T. 332, 507) and some 17 brokers and salesmen representing the Appellant, 5 of whom appeared before the Court in person (T. 258, 263, 267, 270, 334).

The testimony of all of these witnesses related to the understanding, knowledge and practice of such witnesses and no one witness gave testimony which impeached the credibility of another, the differences in

testimony merely being differences which would be natural when the evidence is taken from so many people, differences which were predicated upon differences in memory, experience, marketing methods, and understandings of the several witnesses. There was nothing, therefore, which barred the Court of Appeals from reviewing the testimony and drawing its own sound conclusions on the subject. *Kuhn v. Princess Lida of Thurn & Taxis*, 3d C. C. A., 119 F. 2d 704, 706; *Equitable Life Assurance Society v. Irelan*, 9th C. C. A., 123 F. 2d 462, 464.

9. Since the term "Raisin-BRAN" had acquired a secondary meaning with respect to Petitioner's product, the Respondent had no right to use that term as the designation for its competing product.

The Respondent, in designating its product which competes with the product to which Petitioner had applied its trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN," called its product "Post's Raisin Bran" and prepared its label and advertising matter so that the product would naturally be called "Raisin-BRAN" (A. 10; T. 265, 266, 516-518, 522-524). In its Opinion, the Trial Court said that the Respondent had a perfect right to use the term "Raisin Bran" on its competing product (52 F. S. 432, 451). The Court of Appeals also held that the Respondent had a right to use the exact term "Raisin Bran" (T. Vol. VI, p. 9).

Use by Respondent of Term "Raisin-BRAN" an Infringement

These holdings were predicated upon the conclusion that if the term was in any substantial degree descriptive of the product or of the contents of the product,

it was in the public domain and open to use by others. Such conclusion was in direct conflict with the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Co. v. Nu-Enamel Corp.*, 305 U. S. 315, in which it was held that the use of a descriptive or geographic trade name of another is an infringement, if such a name has acquired a secondary meaning. To like effect are Section 717, Restatement of the Law of Torts, p. 562; *N. K. Fairbanks v. Luckel, King & Cake Soap Co.*, 102 F. 737; *Fuller v. Huff*, 104 F. 141; *Coca Cola Co. v. Stevenson*, 276 F. 1015; *R. Guastavino Co. v. Comerma*, 184 F. 549; *Little Tavern Shops v. Davis*, 116 F. 2d 903; *Saalfeld Publishing Co. v. Merriam*, 238 F. 1; *Trappey v. M'Ilhenny*, 281 F. 23.

Registration Under 1920 Trade Mark Act No Excuse for Infringement

In the Lower Courts, the Respondent claimed that this rule did not apply to a trade-mark registered under the 1920 Trade Mark Act. In the Nu-Enamel Case, *supra*, the term which was granted protection and held to be infringed was a descriptive term which had been registered by the claimant under the 1920 Trade Mark Act; and in Sec. 717, Restatement of the Law of Torts, *supra*, the text states that "trade marks" and "trade names" may be infringed, and as pointed out in Note 6, page 44, *supra*, that text uses the words "trade mark" to designate a technical trade-mark and the words "trade name" to designate a non-technical trade-mark.

10. The Trial Court erred when it found that the Respondent had done all that was necessary to distinguish its product from that of the Petitioner, and the Court of Appeals erred when it concluded that such findings were binding upon the Appellate Court.

Use of Word "Post's"

In Findings of Fact No. 37 (T. 121-122), the Trial Court found, "By using the trade-mark Post's in clean type and conspicuous position as a prominent feature of the carton and by using cartons in colors clearly different from those on plaintiff's carton, the defendant used reasonable care to inform the public of the origin of the Post product and used reasonable precautions to prevent confusion and to guard against the Post product being passed off as that of plaintiff." The Court of Appeals, in passing on this question, said: "The record shows that the name 'Post's' appears prominently upon the packages of Raisin Bran sold by the General Foods Sales Company, * * * It would seem that any purchaser of 'Raisin Bran' who was at all interested in its origin should have no difficulty in identifying the Raisin Bran marketed by either of the Appellees and in distinguishing it from the product of the Appellant" (T. Vol. VI, pp. 10-11). These Findings and Conclusions of both the Trial Court and the Appellate Court are clearly predicated upon the assumption that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not and had not acquired a secondary meaning, and that the Respondent was perfectly free to use the term, and its sole responsibility was to identify its own product so that a discerning purchaser might distinguish between the product of the Petitioner and that of the Respondent. This is the rule, of course, where the term has not been used in a trade-mark sense and where no

secondary meaning has been established; but, as has been pointed out above, the Petitioner's term "Raisin-BRAN" was capable of acquiring and did acquire a secondary meaning, and the Respondent had no right to use it. In such a case, placing the name "Post's" on the Respondent's package aggravates rather than excuses the infringement.

In most instances, it is not the name of the manufacturer that is important to the consumer, it is the product and the qualities of the product which he is particularly desirous of obtaining; and it is the trade-mark of such a product which to his ears or his eyes serves as the badge of identification. The evidence in this case shows that the Petitioner had properly used its mark "Raisin-BRAN" as such a badge of identification and had not used its own name for that purpose (F. 15, T. 110). It stands to reason that by taking that badge of identification, the Respondent intended to and did mislead many purchasers, when they selected Respondent's packages, to believe that they were securing the product that they had always purchased before under the Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN," and the word "Post's," if they gave attention to it at all, would either mislead such purchasers into the erroneous belief that the product which they have always identified and procured by the only mark they knew was made by Post's all the time (which happened, see Ptf's. Exs. 36, 37, 38; T. 43, 44), or had been acquired by Post's from the original producer, or that it was a mere descriptive term and did not mean what they had previously had good reason to believe it meant, —a single thing coming from a single source. Since the Petitioner cannot label and advertise its product "Skinner's Raisin-BRAN"

without destroying the secondary meaning which it has established over a period of seventeen years, the chance for continuing deception of the public and misappropriation of the good will inherent in the Petitioner's trade-mark is greatly increased by the use of the word "Post's." With respect to those of the consuming public who become aware of the fact that there were now two products on the market, the Respondent's use of the name "Post's" was in itself unfair competition because its use in that manner was well calculated to lead such members of the consuming public to understand that "Raisin-BRAN" was no longer the plaintiff's trade-mark, but was merely a descriptive word, thus destroying the secondary meaning established by the Petitioner through years of intensive sales effort and large advertising expenditures. As was said by the Supreme Court of the United States, "That is an aggravation not a justification, for it is open trading in the name of another upon the reputation acquired by the device of the true proprietor." *Menendez v. Holt*, 128 U. S. 514. See also *Coca Cola Co. v. Stevenson*, 276 F. 1015; *R. Guastavino Co. v. Comerma*, 184 F. 549; *Little Tavern Shops v. Davis*, 116 F. 2d 906; *Saalfeld Publishing Co. v. Merriam*, 238 F. 1; *Trappey v. M'Ilhenny*, 281 F. 23.

Surely, where a merchant has a right to the exclusive use of his trade-mark, it is not equity nor sound justice to say that merely because the infringer is so large that everybody knows his name, he can appropriate the trade-mark or trade name belonging to another with impunity if he places his own name upon the package carrying an infringing trade name or trade-mark. Such a course of conduct would promote monopoly, not prevent it.

Re Color of Respondent's Label

It is also to be noted that the Trial Court erred in finding that the word "Post's" was in conspicuous type—if the test of conspicuousness is a comparison with the location, size and emphasis of the words "Raisin Bran" as they appear upon Respondent's package (Def. Ex. 3, T. 737).

The Trial Court also erred when it found that the General Foods label was "in colors clearly different from those on plaintiff's carton." It is to be noted that the lower right-hand corner, and both side panels of Petitioner's carton are in substantially the same shade of blue as is found on the face of the Respondent's carton. (See Ptf. Ex. 9 sent forward to Court for comparison with Def. Ex. 3, T. p. 737).

The conclusions of the two Lower Courts that the Respondent could not be charged with infringement because it marketed its product in a package in which blue and white predominated and where the word "Post's" appeared at the top of the package is clearly erroneous if, as the Petitioner has pointed out above, the trademark "Raisin-BRAN" could and did acquire a secondary meaning prior to the time that the Respondent sought to appropriate it as part of the designation for Respondent's competing product. *N. K. Fairbanks v. Luckel, King & Cake Soap Co.*, 102 F. 327; *Fuller v. Huff*, 104 F. 141.

It is a matter of common knowledge that many persons identify, select and order a product by its trade name only, so that confusion will most likely result where the transaction is oral or where a child or member of

a family not familiar with different brands is sent to the shop; and how about the housewife who knows nothing about the product but has heard from a friend or over the radio of the desirability of the same, the package or label means nothing, the trade name means everything. *N. K. Fairbanks v. Luckel, King & Cake Soap Co.*, supra; *Fuller v. Huff*, supra.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the various manufacturers change their labels from time to time, so a change in the color or particular setup of a package is not of a character which will challenge the public attention to the fact that here is a different product from that which the public has been accustomed to buying under a well-known trade-mark. In fact, several witnesses testified that when they first saw the Respondent's packages they thought they were merely new packages for the old, familiar product (T. 288, 307, 337, 415, 429).

It cannot be gainsaid that the words "Raisin Bran" appear on Respondent's package in the place which will catch the eye and are the most conspicuous part of the label, far more conspicuous in fact than the word "Post's," which is not on the portion of the label which is calculated to catch the eye at first glance.

"The average buyer is always seeking a sign, some special earmark of the brand he has in mind. It may be color—or a design—or a peculiar shape or name. Once his eye sees that sign or his ear hears it, he is satisfied. He is careless—yes, possibly, but if that is the way the average man buys that sort of goods, he may rightfully demand that the law protect him from deceit when he so purchases." *Nims, Unfair Competition and Trade Marks*,

3rd Ed., Sec. 328, p. 847. "But the two marks are practically idem sonans; they look alike; they are distinguishable by ordinary purchasers only by sharp and concentrated inspection. The testimony of the eyes is conclusive that they are likely to cause confusion and mistake by the public, and to deceive purchasers to buy the product of the defendant in the belief that it is the product of the complainant." *Feil v. American Serum Co.* (8th C. C. A.), 16 F. 2d 88, 90. "A vast field of words, phrases and symbols is open to one who wishes to select a trade-mark to distinguish his product from that of the other. Unquestionably in our ever-increasing complex business life, the trend of modern judicial decisions in trade-mark matters is to show little patience with the newcomer who in adopting a mark gets into a borderline zone between an open field and one legally appropriated to another. As between a newcomer and one who by honest dealing has won favor with the public, doubts are always resolved against the former." *Skelly Oil Co. v. Powerine Co.* (U. S. Customs Court), 86 F. 2d 752.

The Circuit Court of Appeals, however, dismisses this question by saying that "Under the evidence, the question whether the Appellees had furnished adequate means to identify their products and to distinguish them from Appellant's product * * * was, we think, a question of fact for the Trial Court to determine" (T., Vol. VI, p. 10).

In view of the fact that the Findings of the Trial Court with respect to the question which is the point here at issue were predicated upon erroneous Conclusions of Law, it is submitted that such Findings were not binding upon the Appellate Court.

11. The Trial Court erred in its finding that the proof did not show confusion and palming off of Respondent's product for the product of the Petitioner; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred in concluding that these findings of the Trial Court were binding upon the Appellate Court.

The competing products of the Petitioner and the Respondent retail at ten to fifteen cents a package and are for sale in service and self-service grocery stores (T. 269, 345, 477). It is a matter of common knowledge that in self-service stores the customer picks up a basket or pushes a basket on wheels, and goes about the shop picking up from shelves and counters the various grocery items which she desires. Often a child or a servant girl is sent to market. These facts were brought out in the testimony of the various consumer witnesses (A. 3a). Since dry prepared breakfast food is a low-priced article and frequently purchased, the average customer will give but little thought to making her purchase. It is not like buying an expensive automobile. In service stores, orders are filled hurriedly by the grocery clerks.

Confusion

In spite of the difficulty of locating witnesses who know personally of confusion, in this case during the course of taking depositions (within 90 days after Respondent commenced its infringement), several instances were disclosed which showed that actual customer confusion had taken place.

Mrs. Clara Coker of Shreveport, Louisiana, a housewife, selected a box of Respondent's package at a self-service store thinking it was Petitioner's package and didn't notice the word "Post's" on the package until

after she started using the product and discovered it was not what she had been accustomed to receive. She noticed the difference in the label but thought it was merely a change in label (T. 288-289).

Mrs. Ruth Polk, a housewife of Memphis, Tenn., testified, "There was confusion over the brand of Raisin Bran I wanted" (T. 371).

Mr. Ted Oliver, a salesman of Petitioner, testified that at a Piggly-Wiggly Store in Nashville, Tennessee, "I was standing near the cereal section * * * when a lady came in and asked the clerk if they had any Raisin Bran. The clerk said, 'Yes,' pointing to a shelf containing Post's Raisin Bran. The lady said, 'That isn't the kind I have been using,' and the clerk said, 'Yes, that's it; that's the new package' " (T. 337).

Two retail grocers testified that their customers were confused by the appearance of the Respondent's package (T. 294, 297).

The Trial Court dismissed this positive evidence of confusion with the statement, "To be sure some instances are shown of customers at self-service retail stores who, during the early days of competition, inadvertently selected a competing product when they desired to secure the plaintiff's with which alone they had heretofore been acquainted. But within the rules of law above suggested, that is not the test of unfair competition or even of customer confusion" (52 F. S. 451). The "rules of law" referred to by the Court were the Trial Court's erroneous conclusions (1) that the term "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning (2) that the Petitioner had wholly failed to prove that the term "Raisin-BRAN" had

acquired a secondary meaning, (3) that the Respondent had the right to use the term "Raisin-BRAN" in spite of its long exclusive use by the Petitioner as a trade-mark, and (4) that the Respondent was "not obliged to so guard his competitive methods that even a negligent or inattentive purchaser will be protected from confusion" (52 F. S. 450), and "there is no probability of any ordinary cautious member of the public, using reasonable care and attention in purchasing, being deceived" (F. 39, T. 122).

Thus we see that the Trial Court shut its eyes to positive, credible evidence of confusion on the ground that the confusion was due to the use of the term "Raisin Bran" and the Respondent could not be held responsible for such confusion, and those confused were either "negligent or inattentive" purchasers, and it is only confusion of "a cautious member of the public, using reasonable care and attention in purchasing" which counts.

As to the character of the witnesses who were shown positively to have been confused, the Court does not doubt their credibility, but insists that they were "negligent and careless." The evidence does not justify holding that any of the witnesses who were confused could be described as negligent (T. 288-289, 294, 297, 337, 371). It does not appear that their conduct was any different from that of the average purchaser of such product. The law does not hold that it is only confusion on the part of a "cautious" purchaser "using care and attention in purchasing" which is of consequence. An infringer of a well-known trade-mark is chargeable with the confusion or deception of a casual purchaser, who may even be thoughtless, unwary, ignorant, unthinking or even care-

less, such as a child or one who makes his purchase in a rush, and his selection with a mere glance of the eye.¹⁰

To refute the Petitioner's positive credible evidence of confusion, the Respondent elicited from a number of grocer witnesses the statements that they did not know of any confusion occurring in their stores (A. 13). This evidence was purely negative testimony and of no weight against the positive credible testimony which was adduced. *De Griselles v. Gans*, 116 Neb. 835, 219 N. W. 235, 239; *Bergman v. Northern Pacific R. R. Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 14 F. 2d 580, 582; *Window Glass Machine Co. v. Pittsburg Plate Glass Co.*, 46 F. 2d 484, 494.

- 10 The following cases illustrate the type of confusion for which an infringer is considered responsible: "Ordinarily the prospective purchaser * * * acts quickly. He is governed by a general glance. The law does not require more of him," *Coca-Cola Co. v. Chero Cola Co.*, 273 F. 755; "The law does not require nice distinction or discrimination from the ordinary purchaser," *R. B. Davis Co. v. Sher*, 125 N. J. E. 316, 5 A. (2d) 49, 51; "The usual purchaser * * * merely looks, perhaps hastily," *Ward Baking Co. v. Potter-Wrightington Co.*, 298 F. 398, 401; He may be "careless as to details," *Little v. Kellam*, 100 F. 353; Or "unsuspecting," *Celluloid Mfg. Co. v. Cellonite Mfg. Co.*, 32 F. 94, 97; Or "unthinking, who does not stop to analyze," *Florence Mfg. Co. v. J. C. Dowd Co.*, 178 F. 73, 75; Or he "may rely on his first impression," *In re Inderrieden Canning Co.*, 277 F. 613, 614; He may be the ordinary retail purchaser * * * "not usually of a high degree of intelligence * * *," *N. K. Fairbanks Co. v. R. W. Bell Mfg. Co.*, 77 F. 869, 876; He need not be "the careful and discriminating purchaser," *Auto Acetylene Light Co. v. Presto-O-Light*, 264 F. 810, 812; He is "not bound to study or reflect," *Pillsbury v. Pillsbury Washburn Mills Co.*, 64 F. 841, 847.

The infringer may be held responsible for confusion of "the servant girl or a child sent to the grocery store * * *," *Ohio Baking Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 127 F. 116, 120; "The purchaser with not very definite or clear recollection," *Northern Warren Corp. v. Cosmetic Co.*, 18 F. 2d 774 (cited with approval in *F. W. Fitch v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635; Or one who "picks up a package from * * * the counter while purchasing a newspaper (or other groceries) on the way to or from his train," *J. N. Collins Co. v. Paist*, 14 F. 2d 614, 615; Or one who "acts upon the moment," *Pillsbury v. Pillsbury Washburn Mills Co.*, supra; And the wrongful infringer is rightly chargeable with acts of retailers who are enabled to palm off the infringer's product because of the use of his rival's trade name, *Saxlehner v. Seigel-Cooper Co.*, 179 U. S. 42, 45 L. Ed. 77; *Coca-Cola Co. v. Gay-Ola Co.*, 200 F. 720; *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635; *Reid Murdoch & Co. v. H. P. Coffee Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 48 F. 2d 817.

The Respondent in the Lower Court argued that because only a few cases of confusion were shown, there was in fact no confusion. This is not sound law. Many persons who were confused would never realize that fact and, of course, would not be available for testimony; others who were confused would not be known to the Petitioner, particularly where the Petitioner was called upon to obtain evidence from a purchasing public which ran into the hundreds of thousands and which was scattered over the entire United States. Recognizing this difficulty and knowing the impracticability of producing a multiplicity of witnesses, the Courts hold that "actual deception having been shown establishes the likelihood of deception." *E. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635, 640; see also *Gebron, Inc., v. Gebron Cleaners*, 45 F. S. 150, 155.

Palming Off

The Trial Court's finding that there was no palming off of Respondent's product for the product of the Petitioner (F. 42, T. 123) is likewise predicated upon erroneous conclusions of law. It is submitted by the Petitioner that the foregoing positive evidence does not support the Trial Court's finding that "Said product has not been passed off as that of plaintiff" (F. 42, T. 123).

The first sale of Respondent's product which it designated "Raisin Bran" was made about May 1, 1942 (T. 500). On May 16, 1942, Petitioner obtained and served a temporary restraining order upon the Respondent (T. 11-15). The Respondent paid no heed to the restraining order and up to September 1942 had sold 3,129,984 packages of its product (T. 500-501).

The Respondent limited its sales territory to the territory where it knew Petitioner had its greatest volume of business (T. 500-501) and introduced its product with a large newspaper and radio advertising campaign throughout the south. In this program it emphasized a sale of its product at two cents per package (Def.'s Exs. 50, 51-A to W, 52-A to M, 53, T. 515-517).

Because of this two-cent special price and the profit in the deal to them, retail grocers pushed the Respondent's product, advertising it as just "Raisin Bran," or if they used the word "Post's," that word was in smaller type than the words "Raisin Bran" (A. 10; T. 274, 290, 297, 298, 330, 344, 364, 369, 375, 408, 415, 435, 475, 532, 538, 558, 586, 590, 598, 606, 620, 623, 630, 639, 664, 666, 693; E. 66-F-1, 66-G-1, 66-H-1, T. 281, 282; E. 59, T. 266; E. 75, T. 336). Several retailers bluntly stated that because of the two-cent special price they palmed off Respondent's package on orders for Petitioner's product (T. 274, 297, 415, 538, 606).

After Respondent's product came upon the market, a number of grocers who had previously been handling Petitioner's product and whose customers had been calling for it under the designation "Raisin Bran," delivered the Respondent's product on such orders, although several of such grocers testified that they knew the customer had intended to order Petitioner's product (T. 274, 296, 297, 415, 538, 557, 600, 606, 610, 620, 639, 663, 666, 672, 675, 693, 694). Several customers testified that Respondent's product was passed to them on orders for Petitioner's product (T. 296, 310, 373, 393, 399, 478). The grocers who admitted this palming off gave as their excuse that they delivered whatever was most handy, or whatever had

the most profit, or whatever was slowest to move, and their testimony shows that they are still following such a practice.

The Trial Court in its Opinion comments on this testimony as follows: "For some period following the advent of the Kellogg and Post products, customers ordering 'Raisin Bran' without other particularization in service grocery stores, and expecting to receive the plaintiff's product * * * were frequently served with one or the other of the competing cereals. Grocers explained these incidents variously, some saying that they delivered 'whichever Raisin Bran was handy,' or 'whichever Raisin Bran was in stock,' and a few, more frank perhaps than the others, 'whichever one was the most profitable one to the seller' " (52 F. S. 451); but the Court excuses this by saying, "In * * * the retail trade the practice developed quickly of inquiring of the purchaser which brand was desired and making delivery accordingly if the preferred item was available" (52 F. S. 451). This last sentence is contrary to the weight of the evidence which showed that 14 of the retail grocer witnesses testified that when their customers want the product they still ask for "Raisin Bran" without designating the name of the producer (T. 296, 298, 324, 328, 364, 369, 415, 464, 465, 600, 605, 606, 665, 672); and as pointed out above, most of these witnesses testified that they still frequently deliver whichever product is most handy, or whatever they have the most profit in, or whichever is the slower moving, on orders for just "Raisin Bran," without asking the customer whose product she desires.

In the face of the use of Petitioner's trade-mark (E. 3, T. 737; E. 9, T. 723), the Trial Court found that the

passing off of Respondent's product for that of the Petitioner was "attributable to * * * careless merchandising practices by local grocers rather than to any purpose of material consequence * * * arising out of any conduct of the defendant" (F. 40, T. 122-123). Such a conclusion was disposed of in the case of *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 106 F. (2d) 635, as follows:

"But it is urged that no wrongful act of the defendant caused a single instance of substitution or confusion. A similar argument was presented in *Wolf Bros. & Co. v. Hamilton Brown Shoe Co.*, 8th Cir., 206 F. 611, 617. In disposing of this contention, this Court said: 'If a manufacturer or wholesale dealer willfully puts up goods in such a way that the ultimate purchaser will be deceived into buying the goods of another, it is no defense that he does not deceive and has no intention of deceiving the retailer to whom he himself sells the goods. The question is whether the defendants have or have not knowingly put into the hands of the retail dealers means of deceiving the ultimate purchaser.' See also *Reid Murdoch Co. v. H. P. Coffee Co.*, 8th Cir., 48 F. 2d 817; *New England Awl and Needle Co. v. Marlboro Awl & Needle Co.*, 168 Mass. 154, 46 N. E. 386." (Note: The opinion in the *New England Awl* case was written by Justice Holmes, later of the United States Supreme Court.)

It is clear from the foregoing that the Trial Court's findings that there was no confusion and no palming off were predicated upon its erroneous conclusions of law that it was impossible for "Raisin-BRAN" to acquire a secondary meaning, and its finding that no secondary meaning had been established, and it is submitted that the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it held that such findings were binding upon the Appellate Court (T., Vol. VI, pp. 8-9).

12. The Trial Court erred when it found that there was no likelihood of confusion and palming off of Respondent's goods for those of the Petitioner; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it concluded that such findings were binding upon the Appellate Court.

As pointed out above, there was positive proof of confusion and of palming off of Respondent's product for that of the Petitioner. This in itself is the most persuasive evidence one could find of the likelihood of confusion and palming off. *E. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635, 640. See also *Gebron, Inc. v. Gebron Cleaners*, 45 F. S. 150, 155.

Where the evidence shows that it was apparently the effort of the newcomer in a competitive field to create points of similarity between the newcomer's designation and label and that of the owner of an established trademark, rather than to create outstanding points of difference, the Courts assume as a matter of law that confusion and palming off will naturally result from such behavior, and that such was the newcomer's intention. *Guggenheim v. Cantrell & Cochrane*, C. C. A., D. C., 10 F. 2d 895, 896; *Helmet Co. v. Wm. Wrigley, Jr., Co.*, 245 F. 824-830; *Coca Cola Co. v. Cleo Syrup Corp.*, 48 F. S. 565, 139 F. 2d 416.

Evidence of Respondent's Intention to Deceive

The product which Respondent introduced on the market in competition with Petitioner's Raisin Bran, was composed of a breakfast food cereal which it designated "40% Bran Flakes" (T. 496). The Respondent had spent \$14,000,000.00 advertising this product as "40% Bran Flakes" (T. 497). Mr. Eldrege, Vice President of the

Respondent, named the new product "Raisin Bran" (T. 496), although he admitted that "40% Bran Flakes With Raisins" would have been an apt designation for the product (T. 497).

Prior to April 1942, the Respondent had marketed its "40% Bran Flakes" in red and brown colored packages (E. 106-A to Q, T. 715); but the Respondent made the color and design of its product to which it applied the designation "Raisin Bran" so that it was more like the Petitioner's package than Respondent's old "40% Bran Flakes" package; and as pointed out above, the Respondent chose a color similar to a color which is conspicuous on Petitioner's package, and emphasized the words "Raisin Bran" (A. 9). In its advertising Respondent also emphasized the words "Raisin Bran" (E. 53, T. 516-518).

Before Respondent decided to enter into competition with Petitioner's product, it obtained reports showing the amount of business done by Petitioner in "Raisin-BRAN" (T. 496) and knew that the great volume of Petitioner's business was in the south (T. 504, 505) and Respondent limited its sales and intensive advertising to the territory where Respondent had done its greatest volume of business (T. 500-501), and started its sales promotion with a two-cent sale of its new product (T. 520-524; E. 50, 51-A to W, 52-A to M, 53, T. 515-517).

With the foregoing uncontradicted evidence in the record, the Trial Court concluded "It is acknowledged, and found to be a fact, that the defendant entered the field deliberately, and after careful study of existing marketing conditions, entered actively into the plaintiff's

most profitable territory in the southern states. It advertised extensively by radio and otherwise recommended its product as 'Post's Raisin Bran' '' (52 F. S. 450).

Erroneous Conclusions of Trial Court

The Trial Court further said, "That the defendants may profit, that they even formally desired and planned to profit, from the advertising of the plaintiff's product through many years, especially in the south, seems probable. But that is held not to be objectionable" (52 F. S. 452). "Certainly there is an utter failure to establish any design or intention on the part of the defendant to that end" (confusion and palming off) (52 F. S. 451).

Predicated upon the foregoing conclusions and the conclusions that "Raisin-BRAN" could not acquire a secondary meaning and was open to use by the Respondent, the Court then found, "There is no probability of any ordinary cautious member of the public, using reasonable care and attention in purchasing, being deceived into believing that in purchasing a General Foods Corporation carton containing said product, he was purchasing the product marketed by the plaintiff because of any similarities between the cartons used by plaintiff and by General Foods Corporation in packing their respective products. * * * This specific finding is premised partly upon the Court's own factual conclusion, based upon frequent, long, and careful examination of specimens of the actual packages, and partly upon the testimony of people incident to the marketing of the three similar products" (F. 39, T. 122).

The Court's "long and careful examination" of the cartons was not the right way to determine whether or

not there is likelihood of confusion. To determine whether or not a customer is likely to be confused, the Court must view the packages under the usual conditions prevailing in the trade which would confront the casual, unthinking, unintelligent and unwary purchaser; *Queen Mfg. Co. v. Isaac Ginsburg & Bros.*, 8th C. C. A., 258 F. 2d 284, 287; *F. W. Fitch Co. v. Camille, Inc.*, 8th C. C. A., 106 F. 2d 635; and the packages should not be placed side by side to see if differences can be observed. *Reid Murdoch & Co. v. H. J. Coffee Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 48 F. 2d 817. The Court should look to see if there are points of similarity in important features of the label which are likely to confuse the unwary purchaser. *Pecheur Lozenge Co. v. National Candy Co.*, 122 F. 2d 318, 320.

The "testimony of people incident to the marketing of the three similar products" to which the Court refers in its Finding 39, *supra*, was evidence of various witnesses who, when presented with the packages one after another or side by side, testified that they would not be confused (A. 13). This is not competent evidence to ascertain whether or not there is likelihood of confusion and palming off. *Reid Murdoch & Co. v. H. J. Coffee Co.*, *supra*.

The Trial Court concluded its discussion of its finding that there was no likelihood of confusion and palming off by saying that this likelihood is now remote because the General Food and Kellogg products bearing the infringing designations "were respectively introduced by accompanying intensive advertising campaigns, with the consequence that knowledge of their existence was spread quickly among wholesale and retail grocers and the public * * * in the localities where General Foods' * * *

and Kellogg's products were introduced * * * and ultimate consumers * * * came quite early to understand the competition * * * and to designate the brand which they preferred" (52 F. S. 451). This is but another way of saying that if an infringer is powerful enough to put on a sudden smashing drive of advertising and sales promotion which will quickly destroy a long established and valuable secondary meaning of a competitor's trade-mark, and change the public understanding with respect thereto by devastating radio and newspaper campaigns, the situation presents no such likelihood of confusion and palming off as to justify the charge of infringement.

The rights of parties in cases such as this must be measured as of the time just preceding the advent of the infringing practices. Unless the injured party acquiesced in the infringement or slept upon his rights, he cannot be deprived of them by a blitz of the wrongdoer.

It is submitted that the Trial Court clearly erred when it found that there was no likelihood of confusion and palming off of Respondent's goods for those of the Petitioner by reason of Respondent's acts of appropriation of Petitioner's trade-mark and simulation of its label, and it is further submitted that the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it concluded that it was bound by such finding (T. VI, p. 10).

13. The Trial Court erred when it concluded that the equities in this case are in favor of the Respondent and against the Petitioner; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it affirmed such an opinion.

There is absolutely no evidence that the Petitioner at any time, in any way, unlawfully harmed or damaged the Kellogg Company or General Foods.

The Petitioner,—a small manufacturer (E. 12, T. 165) compared to Kellogg and General Foods (E. 120, 120A, 121, T. 721, 722),—had for seventeen years conducted its business in a proper manner, and by industry and the expenditure of over \$600,000.00 (E. 11, T. 164), which was no mean sum to it, had built up a business which grossed \$806,000.00 in the first eight months of 1942 (E. 13, T. 165) and showed net earnings of nearly \$40,000.00 for the same period (E. 19, T. 181-182). The Petitioner enjoyed one and one-half per cent of the total cold cereal business of the country, between three per cent and four per cent of all the cold cereal business in the southeast section of the country, and about eight per cent of the cold cereal business in the southwest. It had about eight per cent of all the bran cereal business in the country, over twenty per cent of all the bran cereal business in the southeast and between twenty-five and thirty per cent of the bran cereal business in the southwest. The Petitioner occupied third place among the distributors of part bran cereals in the southeast and second place in the southwest (T. 504; F. 17, T. 112). This business was built about and upon Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN", which mark Petitioner had advertised and treated through the entire course of its use, as the trade-mark and brand name of its product (F. 15, T. 110; T. 193-202, 209, 229-241).

At the time the Petitioner created the term "Raisin-BRAN" standing alone and applied it to its breakfast food product, the term had no particular meaning (pp. 31 to 33, *supra*). After seventeen years' exclusive use by the Petitioner, users of the product scattered throughout the United States had come to learn that the Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" stood for the Peti-

tioner's particular product (pp. 65 to 69, *supra*), and thousands of consumers knew the source of origin of the product (F. 20, T. 113), and although many others did not know and did not care from what source the product originated, they well knew and understood that the trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" meant the particular product which they had been accustomed to purchasing and which they desired (pp. 65 to 69, *supra*).

In April 1942, the Kellogg and General Foods Companies deliberately, after study of Petitioner's business and marketing methods and with full knowledge thereof (F. 27, T. 115), invaded Petitioner's best territories, appropriated Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" (52 F. S. p. 437).

Petitioner submits that under these circumstances, it was error for the Trial Court to say that "the equities are with the defendant and against the plaintiff" (52 F. S. 452). Surely the mere size of the Respondent and their overwhelming predominance in the breakfast food field, does not justify such a statement. Certainly the mere fact that the trade name "Post's" is well known to the public does not justify an infringement of another's trade-mark.

There is no reason for any such rule. The Respondent in this case, and the Kellogg Company, Respondent in a sister case, stood by for 17 years and watched the Petitioner plow and seed and harrow the field. No patent monopoly barred them from entering the same field, nothing but their doubt as to the success of the venture held them back, they have other apt names for designating competing products. Now, when the crop is ready for the harvest because of the foresight, the industry and the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars by a

small competitor, it is submitted it is not equitable for the two largest purveyors of breakfast foods in the United States to step in and, by infringing Petitioner's trade-mark, reap the harvest.

14. The Trial Court erred when it failed to grant the Petitioner the relief prayed for; and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it affirmed the decision and opinion of the Trial Court.

In the foregoing portions of this Brief, it has been pointed out that the Respondent has wrongfully infringed the Petitioner's trade-mark, "Raisin-BRAN" which had acquired a secondary meaning and which had not become a free word at the time of the commencement of such infringement. The evidence also shows that the Petitioner never intentionally abandoned its claim to the exclusive use of the term "Raisin-BRAN" as a trade-mark for Petitioner's breakfast food (T. 177). The evidence also shows that the Respondent will continue to infringe the Petitioner's trade-mark unless enjoined and restrained from doing so (E. 17, T. 178-179).

Granting the Petitioner the relief which it seeks will not deprive the Respondent of the ability to select an appropriate name for its product (T. 497; 52 F. S. 451), nor to design an attractive label which will in no wise infringe upon Petitioner's mark and label. As was said in the case of *British-American T. Co. v. British-American C. S. Co.*, 211 F. 933, 935, "to change the defendant's name can injure no one. To retain it may mislead the public, confuse the trade and seriously injure complainant's business. When such an alternative presents itself the duty of a court of equity is plain, viz., to stop the unfair proceedings in limine. * * * If the defendant intends to deal fairly, it can do no harm to change its name.

If it intends to use the name unfairly, it should be compelled to change it."

In the Lower Court the Respondent insisted that the purpose of the Petitioner's suit was "protection for its *business* in the product, not for its *own good will*," and in support of such statement cited the following: "Sharing in the good will of an article unprotected by patent or trade-mark is the exercise of a right possessed by all—in the free exercise of which the consuming public is deeply interested." *Kellogg Company v. National Biscuit Co.*, 311 U. S. 111, 122. The Trial Court quoted the foregoing extract from the "Shredded Wheat" Case with approval and said, "The distinction seems to lie between sharing in the good will of a product, which is lawful, and appropriating the good will of a producer, which is not to be tolerated" (52 F. S. 452). Of course, if the Trial Court's conclusion that the Respondent had the right to use the Petitioner's mark "Raisin-BRAN" were correct, the Trial Court's conclusion on the above contention of the Respondent would have been correct; but since the Trial Court's conclusion as to the right of the Respondent to use Petitioner's trade-mark "Raisin-BRAN" is in error, so also is the Trial Court's conclusion that the purpose of this proceeding was to protect the good will inherent in the product rather than the good will inherent in the trade-mark.

Under the facts and law in this case, the Petitioner is entitled to a permanent injunction as prayed. *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Eamel Corp.*, 305 U. S. 315; *N. K. Fairbanks Co. v. Luckel, King & Cake Soap Co.*, 102 F. 327, 331; *Fuller v. Huff*, 104 F. 141; *Beneficial Industrial Loan Corp. v. Kline*, 8th C. C. A., 132 F. 2d 520.

CONCLUSION

Counsel for the Petitioner submit that when this Court checks the references to the record, particularly those found in Appendix Note 3 (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), and Appendix Note 4 (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and Part 11 of the Argument (pp. 87 to 94, *supra*), it will appear that, in view of the erroneous Conclusions of Law upon which the Trial Court predicated its Findings of Fact, and decision, as pointed out in the Argument, *supra*, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals erred when it failed to review the evidence and the Trial Court's Findings of Fact.

Petitioner's Counsel realize that the trial and review of this case has imposed a substantial burden upon the Courts. The magnitude of this task, however, was not due to any action of the Petitioner. The Petitioner was the defenseless victim of a ruthless infringement, and when the Petitioner sought to bring the infringer to time, every conceivable defense of fact and of law was brought to bear, and Petitioner was compelled to meet these issues regardless of the resulting size of record and brief.

To alleviate the matter, Counsel for the Petitioner have made careful research of the authorities and have done all in their power to shorten this brief and lighten the work of the Court, and at the same time meet all important issues fairly. In the preparation of the Record, Petitioner's counsel were most careful to be as complete and accurate and fair to the Court and to the Respondent, as possible, and were rewarded by the fact that the Respondent found it necessary to suggest but few additions to the Record. Counsel for the Petitioner have been equally careful to be accurate and fair in their

statements of fact and references to the Record as such matters appear in this brief; and in the discussion of cases and extracts taken from them, have been meticulous in their endeavor not to cite or quote in any manner calculated to mislead; and Counsel for the Petitioner hope and trust that such efforts will lighten the work of this Court in the review of this case.

Counsel for the Petitioner sincerely believe that a great injustice to the Petitioner, and to the purchasing public, will result in an affirmance of the decision of the Lower Court in this case, and that the matter is of National importance, not only because of the wide-spread use of Petitioner's product, but also because a clarification of the numerous issues raised is desirable in order to insure integrity and security in commercial transactions which will be affected by the final decision.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX NOTES

Note 1. Evidence with respect to Petitioner's business and business methods: T. 161 and 171, 186, 190-241, 242, 250-258, 258-261, 263-267, 267, 270, 282, 334, 403, 416, 430, 440, 465, 480, 718 and 720.

Note 2. Evidence with respect to Respondent's business and business methods: T. 493-507, 516-524.

Note 3. Consumer witnesses (91):

(a) Those who had used Petitioner's product prior to advent of competition (86). T. 287-292, 295, 302, 303, 304, 305, 308, 310, 331, 331, 338, 340, 342, 351, 352, 353, 357, 361, 362, 370, 372, 373, 380, 392, 397, 397, 399, 418, 423, 424, 425, 426, 435, 437, 439, 459, 459, 460, 461, 467, 473, 478, 479, 509, 528, 530, 534, 541, 543, 544, 545, 548, 549, 551, 580, 582, 584, 591, 593, 601, 603, 608, 611, 613, 617, 621, 630, 632, 634, 642, 644, 653, 657, 667, 669, 670, 680, 682, 684, 696, 697, 699, 712.

(b) Consumer witnesses who had not heard of or used Petitioner's product (5): T. 508, 529, 531, 531, 713.

(c) Consumer witnesses who knew that "Raisin-BRAN" was a product of Skinner Manufacturing Company (34): T. 272, 289, 292, 303, 303, 304, 306, 308, 310, 332, 338, 341, 342, 351, 363, 372, 402, 424, 425, 427, 435, 439, 460, 462, 468, 546, 552, 558, 583, 585, 633, 644, 656, 658, 671.

(d) Consumers who testified there was only one source of product prior to April, 1942, though they did not know the name of such source (5): T. 331, 461, 474, 479, 631.

(e) Consumers who identified Petitioner's package as only one they had been accustomed to purchase (37): T.

273, 288, 292, 302, 303, 304, 305, 308, 310, 331, 332, 338, 342, 351, 357, 361, 362, 371, 372, 380, 393, 397, 399, 418, 425, 426, 435, 439, 459, 460, 461, 468, 473, 478, 479, 551, 688.

(f) All of those witnesses listed in paragraph (e) above knew that Skinner was the distributor, except (2): T. 479, 534.

(g) Consumer witnesses who testified that when they wished Petitioner's product they ask for "Raisin-BRAN" (17): T. 228, 304, 306, 308, 311, 361, 371, 372, 384, 393, 399, 426, 435, 440, 478, 479.

(h) Consumer witnesses who mistook Respondent's package for Petitioner's (1): T. 289.

(i) Consumers who testified that mark "Raisin Bran" meant Petitioner's product (14): T. 288, 314, 361, 381, 393, 399, 408, 411, 424, 428, 437, 535, 546, 689.

Note 4. Retail grocer witnesses (61):

(a) Retail grocer witnesses who had personal service and delivery (37): 273, 290, 293, 296, 298, 323, 327, 363, 369, 374, 414, 431, 434, 447, 449, 464, 465, 474, 537, 555, 559, 597, 599, 604, 605, 618, 623, 624, 629, 646, 650, 655, 664, 671, 675, 691, 694.

(b) Retail grocer witnesses who had exclusively self-service stores (15): T. 327, 374, 414, 434, 447, 464, 474, 537, 599, 604, 605, 618, 629, 650, 691.

(c) Retail grocers whose testimony did not indicate the type of their service (9): T. 329, 347, 389, 407, 524, 532, 586, 622, 662.

(d) Retail grocers who had never heard of Petitioner's product (3): T. 526, 526, 527.

(e) **Retail grocers who knew source of Petitioner's product (54):** T. 273, 275, 290, 294, 297, 298, 324, 327, 330, 344, 348, 354, 355, 364, 368, 370, 375, 408, 416, 432, 434, 448, 450, 452, 464, 467, 471, 475, 525, 537, 557, 561, 587, 595, 600, 605, 607, 620, 622, 623, 629, 636, 638, 651, 653, 663, 665, 675, 693, 695, 704, 706, 710.

(f) **Retail grocers under class (a) above, who testified that before the advent of the Post and Kellogg competing products, their customers called for Petitioner's product under the trade name "Raisin-BRAN", standing alone (24):** T. 274, 297, 298-299, 364, 368, 369, 376, 432, 450, 452, 464, 466, 475, 560, 637, 638, 651, 656, 665, 675, 703, 706, 711.

(g) **Retail grocers under class (f) above, who testified that when their customers asked for just "Raisin-BRAN", they desired Petitioner's product (16):** T. 274, 297, 364, 468, 476, 432, 466, 475, 560, 622, 656, 662, 665, 677, 703, 705.

(h) **Retail grocers under class (a) above who testified that after the advent of the Post and Kellogg products their customers, when ordering the Petitioner's product, called for just "Raisin-BRAN" (20):** T. 290, 297, 299, 324, 328, 364, 369, 415, 434, 464, 465, 560, 600, 605, 606, 619, 665, 675, 692, 694.

(i) **Retail grocers who testified that the mark "Raisin Bran" meant Petitioner's product (31):** T. 324, 328, 345, 349, 363, 364, 366, 368, 370, 375, 377, 379, 389, 389, 408, 432, 434, 445, 546, 555, 559, 561, 597, 598, 601, 666, 666, 688, 692, 702, 705.

Note 5. Wholesale grocer witnesses (37): T. 271, 275, 286, 299, 315, 319, 332, 349, 358, 365, 378, 406, 411,

419, 444, 445, 454, 462, 470, 507, 533, 539, 553, 592, 594, 609, 614, 627, 640, 647, 659, 678, 685, 700, 707.

(a) Of the above, the following did a joint whole-sale and retail business (1): T. 365.

(b) Of the above, all but the following knew the source of origin of Petitioner's product (3): T. 358, 471, 534.

(c) The following wholesale grocers testified that before the advent of the Post and Kellogg competing products, the term "Raisin-BRAN" meant Petitioner's product in the wholesale and retail trade (33): T. 276, 287, 300, 316, 320, 334, 350, 359, 366, 379, 407, 413, 420, 445, 446, 455, 463, 471, 508, 540, 554, 595, 610, 616, 628, 641, 648, 660, 679, 687, 702.

Note 6. Prior to its adoption by the Petitioner in June, 1925, the term "Raisin-BRAN" had never been applied to any food product on the American market.

(a) Consumer witnesses who testified that name had not been applied to any other breakfast food: T. 290, 293, 303, 311, 311, 331, 372, 425, 427, 459, 461, 474, 479, 631.

(b) Retail grocers who so testified: T. 557, 561, 597.

(c) There was no evidence that the name had been applied to any other food product prior to 1925.

The Trial Court found that prior to April, 1942, there was no prepared breakfast food product on the American food market, other than Appellant's product, designated as "Raisin-BRAN", or in approximately similar fashion (F. 6, T. 106) but the Court refused the request of the Appellant (Par. I, T. 132), to find that at the time the Appellant adopted the term "Raisin-BRAN"

for use upon its aforesaid product, said term, standing alone, was not in use as a designating term *for any food product* (Par. I, T. 132), and predicated its refusal upon the following: "The evidence in the case did not negative the possibility that it might have been employed alone in designating some other type of food. The most that can be said is that there is no evidence of any such employment * * *" (Par. I, T. 132). In making this Finding the Court apparently overlooked the uncontradicted testimony of consumers and retail grocers who testified positively that prior to April, 1942, they knew of *no food product* on the American market bearing the name "Raisin-BRAN" other than Appellant's product (see Notes 12j, k, l, and m, p. 117, *infra*) or if the Court did not overlook that testimony, the Court erred in its Conclusion of Law as to what is necessary to prove a negative. A negative, from its nature, usually admits of no more than approximate proof, and evidence which renders the negative probable is sufficient proof of the negative in the absence of positive proof to the contrary. 32 C. J. S., Sec. 1025, p. 1062; *Leonard v. St. Joe Lead Co.*, 8th C. C. A., 1935, 75 F. 2d 390; *Southern Rwy. Co. v. Stewart*, 8th C. C. A., 1941, 119 F. 2d 85; *Majestic Securities Corp v. Collector of Internal Revenue*, 8th C. C. A., 1941, 120 F. 2d 12; *Owen v. Carmichael's Auto Co.*, (Cal., 1931), 2 P. 2d 580.

Note 7. The Petitioner's attempt to register the trade-mark under the 1905 Trade Mark Act and its subsequent registration under the 1920 Trade Mark Act did not preclude the term "Raisin-BRAN" from acquiring a secondary meaning.

In the Lower Court, the Respondent insisted that the Petitioner admitted that the term "Raisin-BRAN"

was so descriptive that it could not acquire a secondary meaning because when the Petitioner first tried to register its mark under the Trade Mark Act of 1905, such registration was denied on April 9, 1926, on the ground that "Raisin-BRAN, is merely the commercial name of applicant's goods", and the applicant did not appeal from such decision, but shortly thereafter registered the mark under the Trade Mark Act of 1920 (T. 162).

The Trial Court paid no heed to this particular objection, and it is apparent that the objection was of no force or effect, for as shown in the case of *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Co. v. Nu-Enamel Corp.*, 305 U. S. 315, this Court has held that the registration under the 1920 Act did not preclude the acquisition of a secondary meaning. Surely the fact that the term was used as a commercial name for the product did not preclude the Petitioner from claiming it as a trade-mark nor prevent the term from thereafter acquiring a secondary meaning under the method employed by the Petitioner to create such secondary meaning. At the time that the registration was sought under the 1905 Trade Mark Act, the question whether or not the term had acquired a secondary meaning was not at issue, and those proceedings in the Patent Office were not res judicata of the proceedings here. *Popular Mechanics Co. v. Fawcett Publications, Inc.*, 1 F. S. 292, 294; *Trappey v. M'Ilhenny Co.*, 281 F. 23, cert. denied, 43 S. Ct. 94, 260 U. S. 733; *Gaidry v. M'Ilhenny Co.*, 253 F. 613; *Bisceglia Bros. v. Fruit Industries, Ltd.*, 20 F. S. 564; *In Re American Cyanide & Chemical Corp.*, 99 F. 2d. 964.

Note 8. Petitioner's trade-mark as used on its packages:

Raisin-
TRADE MARK BRAND NAME
 REG. U. S. PAT OFF AND STATES
BRAN

TRADE MARK BRAND NAME
 OF THIS PRODUCT WHICH IS
 (From Ptf's. Ex. 9)

Note 9. Term "Raisin Bran" as it appears on Respondent's package:

Raisin
Bran

(From Defs. Ex. 3)

Note 10. Newspapers in which General Foods product was advertised by retailers as "Raisin Bran" or "Post's Raisin Bran" with the word "Post's" small and inconspicuous:

- 5-12-42 Reynolds Food Store, Texarkana, Arkansas, advertised "One Pkg. Post's Grape-Nut Flakes and one Pkg. Raisin Bran, both for 12¢." The "Raisin Bran" advertised was the General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-P, T. 481).
- 5-22-42 Lofton's at Fort Smith, Arkansas, advertised "Raisin Bran, pkg. 8¢." The "Raisin Bran" thus advertised was the General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-Q, T. 481, 482).
- 6-12-42 Gilchrist's Food Store, Fort Smith, Arkansas, advertised "Post's Grape-Nut Flakes and package Raisin Bran, both for 13¢," and Lofton's Store, Fort Smith, Arkansas, advertised "Raisin Bran, pkg. 7½¢." The product advertised by both of these stores as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-R, T. 483).
- 7-17-42 Lofton's Store, Fort Smith, Arkansas, advertised "Raisin Bran pkg. 9¢." Product thus advertised was General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-S, T. 482, 483).
- 8-28-42 Model Food Market, Little Rock, Arkansas, advertised "Raisin Bran," 2 pkgs. 23¢." Product thus advertised was General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-T, T. 483, 484).
- 5-22-42 Strickland's Super Store, Little Rock, Arkansas, advertised "Raisin Bran, per pkg. 7¢." The product advertised was the General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-M, T. 477).
- 5-17-42 Stacy's Store, Little Rock, Arkansas, advertised "Post's Bran Flakes, 10¢ a package and Raisin Bran free, for 10¢." The product advertised "Raisin Bran free" was the General Foods product (Ptf. Ex. 88-O, T. 480, 481).

- 5-28-42 The E-Z Self-Service Store, Frederick, Oklahoma, advertised "Raisin Bran, regular 12¢ box, 6.¢" The product thus advertised was General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. 66-E-1, T. 281).
- 7-10-42 Piggly-Wiggly Stores, Lubbock, Texas, advertised "Grape-Nut Flakes and Raisin Bran, 11-oz. pkgs., both for 12¢." The product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. N-1, T. 284).
- 7-10-42 Carl's Cash Grocery, Lubbock, Texas, advertised "Grape-Nut Flakes and Raisin Bran, 2 packages 12¢." The product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. O-1, T. 284).
- 7-10-42 Ideal Food Market, Pampa, Texas, advertised "1 package Raisin Bran, 1 package Grape-Nut Flakes, 25¢ value, all for 11¢." The product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. P-1, T. 284).
- 7-10-42 McCartt Super Market, Pampa, Texas, advertised "Raisin Bran, 1 box Post's Grape-Nut Flakes, free, 10¢." The product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. Q-1, T. 284).
- 7-11-42 The Furr Food Super Markets, Amarillo, Texas, advertised "1 package Raisin Bran, 1 package Grape-Nut Flakes, 2 for 11¢." The product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. R-1, S-1, T. 284).

- No Date Carl's Cash Market, Tucumcari, New Mexico, advertised by handbill "Grape-Nut Flakes and Raisin Bran, 2 packages 12¢." Product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. T-1, T. 284, 285).
- 5-23-42 Furr Food Store, Dumas, Texas, advertised "Raisin Bran and 1 package Grape-Nut Flakes, all for 11¢." The product advertised as "Raisin Bran" was the General Foods product (Ptfs. Ex. U-1, T. 285). Exs. LL-1 and J-1 show similar types of advertising which indicates that the General Foods product was being advertised as just "Raisin Bran."
- Aug. '42 Circular of Q-P Stores, Houston, Texas, advertised "Raisin Bran" with word "Post's" in small letters (Ptfs. Ex. 57, T. 264-265). These stores operate in numerous towns in Texas.
- 7-17-42 Market Basket Stores, Houston, Texas, listed "Raisin Bran, package 11¢" with word "Post's" in very small letters (Ptfs. Ex. 58, T. 265).
- 7-15-42 Houston Kash-way Stores, Houston, Texas, advertised product as "Raisin Bran" in large letters with word "Post's" in small letters (Ptfs. Ex. 60, T. 269).
- 7-31-42 Newspaper advertisement, Ingle Grocery, Corpus Christi, Texas, advertising product as "Raisin Bran" in large letters with word "Post's" in small letters (Ptfs. Ex. 61, T. 269).
Exs. B, C, D, E and F show similar advertisements circulated in New Orleans, La., in which the General Foods product is advertised as just "Raisin Bran" (T. 417, 418) vide:
- 6-9-42 Ex. B, circular: "Grape Nuts and Raisin Bran, Special both for 15¢."
- 5-29-42 Ex. C, handbill: "Grape Nut Flakes and Raisin Bran both for 12¢."

- 6-3-42 Ex. D, circular: "Buy 1 box Post's Bran Flakes, 1-lb. box Raisin Bran—worth 24¢, all for 12¢."
- 6-1-42 Ex. E, circular: "1 package New Raisin Bran, 2¢ when you buy 1 package Grape Nut Flakes, 10¢."
- 5-30-42 Ex. F, circular: "1 box Grape Nut Flakes, FREE with Raisin Bran, box 14¢."

Note 11. The testimony of witnesses who said they were not confused or would not be confused: T. 307, 309, 314, 329, 533, 535, 537, 551, 584, 670.

Note 12. Answers to questions as to meaning of term Raisin Bran.

(a) Answers of consumers and retailers to question, "What does raisin bran mean to you?" T. 274, 309, 321, 327, 352, 360, 363, 365, 369, 372, 374, 476, 545, 548, 549, 550, 554, 556, 560, 583, 585, 589, 593, 598, 603, 604, 615, 622, 625, 630, 632, 634, 635, 638, 643, 654, 656, 663, 668, 689, 692, 695, 698, 700, 711.

(b) Witnesses listed in (2) who gave their evidence with the Kellogg and General Foods competing products in mind: T. 274, 360, 476, 545, 549, 554, 556, 560, 585, 589, 593, 604, 615, 622, 625, 630, 632, 634, 635, 638, 643, 656, 663, 668, 689, 692, 695, 700, 711.

(c) Witnesses testified that before advent of General Foods and Kellogg competing products, "Raisin Bran" meant Petitioner's product: T. 327, 328, 363, 370, 374, 382, 389, 424, 536, 545, 554, 560, 598, 635, 638, 689, 692.

(d) Witnesses listed in (a) who answered leading questions: T. 309, 365, 369, 615, 634, 656, 668, 690.

(e) Witnesses listed in (a) who had practically no acquaintance with Petitioner's product: T. 363, 549, 550, 603, 654.

(f) Witnesses listed in (a) who were asked for dictionary definitions: T. 274, 321, 372, 374, 545, 583, 585, 589, 593, 615, 622, 625, 634, 635, 638, 643, 654, 656, 663, 664, 668, 689, 695, 700, 711.

(g) Consumer and retailer witnesses who answered that "raisin bran" does not mean a particular producer:

Consumers: T. 353, 546, 556, 631, 638.

Retail Grocers: T. 431, 625.

(h) Witnesses listed in (g) whose testimony shows that before competition they understood "Raisin Bran" meant the Petitioner's product:

Consumers: T. 546, 638.

(i) Witnesses listed in (g) who had competing products in mind when testifying:

Consumers: T. 631, 638.

(j) Witnesses who testified that before Respondents put their competing products on the market, the term "raisin bran", standing alone, had not been applied to any food product: T. 288, 292, 304, 311, 331, 332, 459, 461, 474, 479, 557, 561, 596, 631, 645, 658, 690.

(k) Witnesses who testified that before Respondents put their competing products on the market there was no product other than Petitioner's known as "raisin bran": T. 352, 372, 374, 425, 428-29, 588, 632, 639, 656.

(l) Witnesses who testified that there was no such thing as the bran of a raisin: T. 587, 589.

(m) Witnesses listed in (a) above who testified that "raisin bran" did not signify any particular formula: T 546, 553, 554, 557, 625, 630, 631, 692, 711.

Note 13. Retail grocer witnesses who said they didn't know of any confusion: T. 345, 411, 557, 624, 651.

Note 14. Section 240 (a) of Judicial Code:

"Sec. 240. (a) In any case, civil or criminal, in a Circuit Court of Appeals, or in the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, it shall be competent for the Supreme Court of the United States, upon the petition of any party thereto, whether Government or other litigant, to require by certiorari, either before or after a judgment or decree by such lower court, that the cause be certified to the Supreme Court for determination by it with the same power and authority, and with like effect, as if the case had been brought there by unrestricted writ of error or appeal." C. 231, Sec. 240(a).

Note 15. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 52:

"Rule 52. Finding by the Court. (a) Effect. In all actions tried upon the facts without a jury, the court shall find the facts specially and state separately its conclusions of law thereon and direct the entry of the appropriate judgment; and in granting or refusing interlocutory injunctions the court shall similarly set forth the findings of fact and conclusions of law which constitute the grounds of its action. Requests for findings are not necessary unless clearly erroneous, and due regard shall be given to the opportunity of the trial court to judge of the credibility of the witnesses. The findings of a master, to the extent that the court adopts them, shall be considered as the findings of the court."

Note 16. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1:

"Rule 1. Scope of Rules. These rules govern the procedure in the district courts of the United States in all suits of a civil nature whether cognizable as cases at law or in equity, with the exceptions stated in Rule 81. They shall be construed to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action."

Note 17. c. 651, 48 Stat. 1064:

"Sec. 1. Rules in actions at law; Supreme Court authorized to make. The Supreme Court of the United States shall have the power to prescribe, by general rules, for the district courts of the United States and for the courts of the District of Columbia, the forms of process, writs, pleadings, and motions, and the practice and procedure in civil actions at law. Said rules shall neither abridge, enlarge, nor modify the substantive rights of any litigant. They shall take effect six months after their promulgation, and thereafter all laws in conflict therewith shall be of no further force or effect.

"Sec. 2. Union of equity and action at law rules; power of Supreme Court. The court may at any time unite the general rules prescribed by it for cases in equity with those in actions at law so as to secure one form of civil action and procedure for both: Provided, however, That in such union of rules the right of trial by jury as at common law and declared by the seventh amendment to the Constitution shall be preserved to the parties inviolate. Such united rules shall not take effect until they shall have been reported to Congress by the Attorney General at the beginning of a regular session thereof and until after the close of such session."

Note 18. Ten-year clause of 1905 Trade Mark Act:

“Sec. 5. **Trade-marks which may be registered.** No mark by which the goods of the owner of the mark may be distinguished from other goods of the same class shall be refused registration as a trade-mark on account of the nature of such mark unless such mark—

“(a) Consists of or comprises immoral or scandalous matter.

“(b) Consists of or comprises the flag or coat of arms or other insignia of the United States or any simulation thereof, or of any State or municipality or of any foreign nation, or of any design or picture that has been or may hereafter be adopted by any fraternal society as its emblem, or of any name, distinguishing mark, character, emblem, colors, flag, or banner adopted by any institution, organization, club, or society which was incorporated in any State in the United States prior to the date of the adoption and use by the applicant: Provided, That said name, distinguishing mark, character, emblem, colors, flag, or banner was adopted and publicly used by said institution, organization, club, or society prior to the date of adoption and use by the applicant: Provided, That trade-marks which are identical with a registered or known trade-mark owned and in use by another and appropriated to merchandise of the same descriptive properties, or which so nearly resemble a registered or known trade-mark owned and in use by another and appropriated to merchandise of the same descriptive properties as to be likely to cause confusion or mistake in the mind of the public or to deceive purchasers shall not be registered: Provided, That no mark which consists merely in the name of an individual, firm, corporation, or association not written, printed, im-

pressed, or woven in some particular or distinctive manner, or in association with a portrait of the individual, or merely in words or devices which are descriptive of the goods with which they are used, or of the character or quality of such goods, or merely a geographical name or term, shall be registered under the terms of this subdivision of this chapter: Provided further, That no portrait of a living individual may be registered as a trade-mark except by the consent of such individual, evidenced by an instrument in writing, nor may the portrait of any deceased President of the United States be registered during the life of his widow, if any, except by the consent of the widow evidenced in such manner: And provided further, That nothing herein shall prevent the registration of any mark used by the applicant or his predecessors, or by those from whom title to the mark is derived, in commerce with foreign nations or among the several States or with Indian tribes which was in actual and exclusive use as a trade-mark of the applicant, or his predecessors from whom he derived title, for ten years next preceding February 20, 1905: Provided further, That nothing herein shall prevent the registration of a trade-mark otherwise registrable because of its being the name of the applicant or a portion thereof. And if any person or corporation shall have so registered a mark upon the ground of said use for ten years preceding February 20, 1905, as to certain articles or classes of articles to which said mark shall have been applied for said period, and shall have thereafter and subsequently extended his business so as to include other articles not manufactured by said applicant for ten years next preceding February 20, 1905, nothing herein shall prevent the registration of said trade-mark in the additional classes to which said new additional articles manu-

factured by said person or corporation shall apply, after said trade-mark has been used on said article in interstate or foreign commerce or with the Indian tribes for at least one year, provided another person or corporation has not adopted and used previously to its adoption and use by the proposed registrant, and for more than one year such trade-mark or one so similar as to be likely to deceive in such additional class or classes." Feb. 20, 1905, c. 592, Sec. 5, 33 Stat. 725; Mar. 2, 1907, c. 2573, Sec. 1, 34 Stat. 1251; Feb. 18, 1911, c. 113, 36 Stat. 918; Jan. 8, 1913, c. 7, 37 Stat. 649; Mar. 19, 1920, c. 104, Sec. 9, 41 Stat. 535; June 7, 1924, c. 341, 43 Stat. 647.

Note 19. Section 16 of the 1905 Trade Mark Act:

"Sec. 16. **Evidence of ownership; infringement, and damages. therefor.** The registration of a trade-mark under the provisions of this sub-division of this chapter shall be prima facie evidence of ownership. Any person who shall, without the consent of the owner thereof, reproduce, counterfeit, copy, or colorably imitate any such trade-mark and affix the same to merchandise of substantially the same descriptive properties as those set forth in the registration, or to labels, signs, prints, packages, wrappers, or receptacles intended to be based upon or in connection with the sale of merchandise of substantially the same descriptive properties as those set forth in such registration, and shall use, or shall have used, such reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation in commerce among the several States, or with a foreign nation, or with the Indian tribes, shall be liable to an action for damages therefor at the suit of the owner thereof; and whenever in any such action a verdict is rendered for the plaintiff, the court may enter judgment therein for any sum above the amount found by

the verdict as the actual damages, according to the circumstances of the case, not exceeding three times the amount of such verdict, together with the costs." Feb. 20, 1905, c. 592, Sec. 16, 33 Stat. 728.

Note 20. Section 17 of the 1905 Trade Mark Act:

"Sec. 17. **Jurisdiction of suits.** The district and Territorial courts of the United States and the district court of the United States for the District of Columbia shall have original jurisdiction, and the Circuit Courts of Appeals of the United States and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia shall have appellate jurisdiction of all suits at law or in equity respecting trade-marks registered in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision of this chapter, arising thereunder, without regard to the amount in controversy." Feb. 20, 1905, c. 592, Sec. 17, 33 Stat. 728; Mar. 3, 1911, c. 231, Sec. 291, 36 Stat. 1167; June 7, 1934, c. 426, 48 Stat. 926; June 25, 1936, c. 804, 49 Stat. 1921.

Note 21. Section 6 of the 1920 Trade Mark Act:

"Sec. 6. The provisions of Secs. 15, 17 to 27, inclusive, and 28 (as to class B marks only) of the 1905 Trade Mark Act, and the provisions of Sec. 2 of said Act, are made applicable to marks placed on the register provided for by Sec. 1 of this Act." Mar. 19, 1920, c. 104, Sec. 6, Stat. 535.

Note 22. Cases cited by Lower Courts and Respondent, classified and distinguished.

(a) *Cases which were decided prior to the time that the American and English Courts recognized that geographical, generic or descriptive words might acquire a secondary meaning; Canal Co. v. Clark, 80 U. S. (13*

Wall.) 311, 20 L. Ed. 581 (decided 1871); with like exceptions, see *Amoskeag Mfg. Co. v. Trainer*, 101 U. S. 51, 25 L. Ed. 993 (decided 1880); *Lawrence Mfg. Co. v. Tennessee Mfg. Co.*, 138 U. S. 537; 34 L. Ed. 997 (decided 1891); *Brown Chemical Co. v. Meyer*, 137 U. S. 540, 35 L. Ed. 247 (decided 1890); *Goodyear's India Rubber Glove Mfg. Co. v. Goodyear India Rubber Co.*, 128 U. S. 598, 32 L. Ed. 535 (decided 1888); *Linoleum Mfg. Co. v. Nairn*, 7 Ch. Div. 834 (decided 1877).

(b) *Cases in which the words sought to be appropriated were already in use in the language as designations for the particular products to which they were applied at the time the appropriation was sought, or were terms which were so completely descriptive of the product that to grant monopoly of them would deprive competitors of the ability to aptly describe their competing products*; "Toasted Corn Flakes," *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 235 F. 657; "Shredded Wheat," *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111; "Vistand," *Armstrong Mfg. Co. v. Ridge Tool Co.*, 132 F. 2d 158; "Mechanics," *Fawcett Publications v. Popular Mechanics Co.*, 80 F. 2d 194; "Food Center," (not strong case), *Houston v. Berde*, 2 N. W. 2d 9 (Minn.); "Jell-Well" applied to gelatin food, *Jell-Well Dessert Co. v. Jell-X-Cell Co.*, 22 F. 2d 522; "Computing" and "Standard" in names of corporations manufacturing scales, *Computing Scale Co. v. Standard Computing Scale Co.*, 118 F. 965; "Basser" as applied to a fish bait, *James Heddon's Sons v. Millsite Steel & Wire Co.*, 128 F. 2d 6; "Cerate," "Capsules," "Suppositories," "Tablets," "Laxatives," "Pencils" (not used as trade-marks), *Viavi Co. v. Vimedia Co.*, 245 F. 289; "Brake Block," *American Brake Shoe & Foundry Co. v. Alltex Products Corp.*, 117 F. 2d 983.

(c) *Cases in which the defendant was not seeking to use the exact term in such a manner as to be charged with using practically an identical term, but had made such changes as were possible under the circumstances to obviate the conclusion that there was an intentional infringement, as for instance where "Coca-Quinine" was held not infringed by "Quin-Coca";* *W. R. Warner & Co. v. Eli Lilly and Co.*, 265 U. S. 526, 68 L. Ed. 1161; see also "*Roof-Leak*," held not infringed by the name "*Never Leak*," *Sears, Roebuck & Co. v. Elliott Varnish Co.*, 232 F. 588; "*Food Breakers*," held not infringed by "*Combination Cake Breakers, Pie Cutter and Server*," *Coradon & Co. v. Schneider*, 47 F. S. 735; or cases in which the words or terms were so dissimilar as to preclude the charge of infringement; "*Ripplette*"-"*Krinklette*," *Bliss, Fabyan & Co. v. Aileen Mills, Inc.*, 25 F. 2d 370; "*Steel Shod*"-"*Steel Clad*," *Brennan v. Emery-Bird-Thayer Dry Goods Co.*, 108 F. 624; "*Specs*"-"*Goggles*," *Cridlebaugh v. Rudolph*, 131, F. 2d 795; (See (g) also); "*Tuberose*"-"*True Smoke*," *P. Lorillard Co. v. Peper*, 86 F. 956; "*Grape Nuts*"-"*Grain Hearts*," *Postum Cereal Co., Ltd. v. American Health Food Co.*, 119 F. 848; "*Rex*" on glass pharmaceutical bottles held not infringed by "*Pyrex*" on glass cooking utensils where only competing article was babies' milk bottles, *Walgreen Stores v. Obear-Nestor Glass Co.*, 113 F. 2d 956; "*Wornova*"-"*Slipova*," *Wornova Mfg. Co. v. McCauley & Co.*, 11 F. 2d 465; "*Old Country*"-"*Our Country*," *Allen B. Wrisley Co. v. Iowa Soap Co.*, 122 F. 796.

(d) *Cases in which the claimant had not relied upon the descriptive, generic or geographical words to indicate the source of origin, but had used his own name or some other name as a part of said mark and as a means of indicating the source of origin; "Brooten's Kelp Ore,"*

Brooten v. Oregon Kelp Ore Products Co., 24 F. 2d 496; "Samaritan Nervine," *Richmond Remedies Co. v. Dr. Miles Medical Co.*, 16 F. 2d 598; "Sanitas" (also Kellogg's) "Toasted Corn Flakes," *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 235 F. 657; "Dupont Cellophane," *DuPont Cellophane Co., Inc. v. Waxed Products Corp.*, 85 F. 2d 75; See also "Hunyadi Janos," "Saxlehner v. Wagner, 216 U. S. 375, 54 L. Ed. 525; "Horlick's Malted Milk," *Horlick's Malted Milk v. Summèrskill*, 85 L. J. R. 338; "Fels Naptha," *Fels v. Christopher-Thomas & Bros.*, 21 R. P. C. 85; "W. H. Bull's Herbs & Iron," *Spicer v. W. H. Bull Medicine Co.*, 49 F. 2d 980; "Krank's Lather Kreem," *A. J. Krank Mfg. Co. v. Pabst*, 277 F. 15; "American Brakeblock," *American Brake Shoe & Foundry Co. v. Alltex Products Corp.*, 117 F. 2d 983; *Cellular Clothing Co., Ltd. v. Maxton & Murray*, L. R. (1899) A. C. 326, 80 L. T. R., N. S. 809, was an appeal from the Scottish High Court of Justice, the decision for which is found in 35 Sc. L. R. 869. In the Scottish Reports it appears that the claimant had used the word "Aertex" as its trade-mark and had also designated the product "Kershaw's Cellular Cloth," the word "Kershaw's" being the name used to identify the source of origin; "Parson's Oatmeal," *Parsons Bros. v. John Gillespie*, 15 R. P. C. 57.

(e) *Cases in which the claimant when it first placed its product upon the market, and for a number of years thereafter, did not use as a trade-mark the descriptive or generic words which it later claimed had acquired a secondary meaning, but first used such words as purely descriptive of the product and placed distinctive trade marks on the packages to indicate the source of origin; Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111; *DuPont*

Cellophane Co. v. Waxed Products Corp., 85 F. 2d 75; Claimant depended on a white horse as trade-mark, *Jamieson & Co. v. Jamieson*, 15 R. P. C. 169; Claimant had trade-mark represented by picture of a pig in natural walking position, head down, with words "Pig Sandwich" extending from shoulder to hind leg. Respondent relied on trade-mark consisting of picture of a pig standing erect with a checked cap on head, white apron fastened around neck, checked tie around neck, pig holding a knife as a waiter in front hoofs, with a sandwich thereon, and the word "Dixiepig" immediately under the waiter, *Dixiepig Corporation v. Pig Stand Co.* (Civ. App., Tex., 1930, 31 S. W. 2d 325; "Mirrolike," applied to polish, claimant's mark surrounded by diagram or ornamental scroll, *Mirrolike Mfg. Co. v. DeVoe & Reynolds Co., Inc.*, 3 F. 2d 847; *S. Chivers & Sons v. S. Chivers & Co.*, 17 R. P. C. 420, in which case the dispute related to the use of the surname "Chivers" on jams and jellies. The complainant in the case used a gold seal for its trade-mark and did not rely on the name "Chivers" for a trade-mark, and the respondent in the case used a pictorial design with the word "Salisbury" as its trade-mark; *Parsons Bros. v. John Gillespie*, 15 R. P. C. 57, in which case a pictorial trade-mark had been used to indicate source of origin; *Steem-Electric Corp. v. Herzfeld Phillipson Co.*, 118 F. 2d 122, in which case a pictorial trade-mark had been used with a picture of a flatiron from which a cloud of steam was emanating, with a bolt of lightning coming from the cloud to the iron.

(f) *Cases in which the plaintiff was claiming a secondary meaning but where the evidence showed that plaintiff had not had the exclusive use of the term claimed, but the term was in common use in the competitive trade*

or was the commonly used generic name for the product to which the plaintiff sought to apply the mark; "Steem-Electric" (steam electric), *Steem-Electric Corp. v. Herzfeld Phillipson Co.*, 118 F. 2d 122; "Dridip" (dry dip), *Ungles-Hoggette Mfg. Co. v. Farmers' Hog & Cattle Powder Co.*, 232 F. 116; "Nervine," *Richmond Remedies Co. v. Dr. Miles Medical Co.*, 16 F. 2d 598; "Corn Flakes," *Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Co. v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 235 F. 657; "Oaties" (diminutive "ies" not being exclusive in the defendant), *Quaker Oats Co. v. General Mills Co.*, 134 F. 2d 429; to like exception are "Hunyadi Water," *Saxelhner v. Wagner*, 216 U. S. 375, 54 L. Ed. 525; "Imperial Whiskey," *Hiram Walker & Sons v. Penn-Maryland Corp.*, 79 F. 2d 836; "Mirrolike," applied to polish, *Mirrolike Mfg. Co. v. DeVoe & Reynolds Co., Inc.*, 3 F. 2d 847 (See (e) also); "Wire Glass," as a name for glass in which wire is enmeshed, *Wire Glass Co. v. Continuous Glass Co.*, 79 N. J. E. 277, 81 At. 374; "Cellular Cloth," *Cellular Clothing Co., Ltd., v. Maxton & Murray*, 35 Se. L. R. 869; 80 L. T. R. N. S. 809.

(g) Cases in which the decision did not turn upon the establishment of a secondary meaning or in which the claimant's right or claim was predicated upon a claim of a technical trade-mark right and not upon a secondary meaning; "No-D-Ka," *No-D-Ka Dentrifrice Co. v. S. S. Kresge Co.*, 24 F. 2d 726, the claimant asserted that "No-D-Ka" was a technical trade-mark and entitled to the protection of registration under the 1905 Trade-Mark Act, but not under the ten-year clause thereof, and the Court held that the term was not a technical trade-mark, and no secondary meaning having been established, the decision was adverse to the claimant; "Elgin Watch," *Elgin National Watch Co. v. Illinois Watch Co.*, 179 U. S.

665, 21 S. Ct. 270, 45 L. Ed. 365 (1900); Subsequent to the foregoing decision, the right of the plaintiff to protection in the name "Elgin" because of the secondary meaning which the name had acquired was upheld by the Federal Courts, *Elgin National Watch Co. v. Loveland*, 132 F. 41, C. C. Ia. 1904; "Ruberoid," *Standard Paint Co. v. Trinidad Asphalt Mfg. Co.*, 220 U. S. 446, 55 L. Ed. 536; *Beckwith v. Commissioner of Patents*, 252 U. S. 538, 64 L. Ed. 705; "Stabrite," for polish, secondary meaning not involved, patent office registration only, *In re Swan & Finch Co.*, 259 F. 991; "Boiler Meter," for meter which would measure steam from boiler, secondary meaning not involved, *Ex Parte Bailey Meter Co.*, 487 O. G. 675, 36 U. S. P. Q. 294; Patent Office Registration, *Ex Parte Railley Corp.*, 42 U. S. P. Q. 472; Patent Office Registration, *Ex Parte Bardons & Oliver, Inc.*, 42 U. S. P. Q. 632; "Bowlmill," as trade-mark for patented grinding device, no secondary meaning involved, *Ex Parte Combustion Engineering Co.*, 43 U. S. P. Q. 191; Speed Wagon," as applied to trucks, Patent Office Registration, no secondary meaning involved, *Ex Parte Reo Motor Car Co.*, 241 O. G. 4, 16 F. 2d 194; "Malto-Dextrine," trade-mark registration, no secondary meaning involved, *Ex Parte Hartog*, 49 U. S. P. Q. 121; "Ne Line," for hosiery, *In re Archer Hosiery Mills*, 134 F. 2d 239; "Arch Rest" (held not descriptive), *In re Irving Drew*, 297 F. 889; "Al-Kol," for alcohol, *American Druggists' Syndicate v. United States Industrial Alcohol Co.*, 2 F. 2d 942; "Prun-O-Wheat," *W. E. Long v. U. S. Bakery*, 28 U. S. P. Q. 520.

(h) Cases in which the product to which the term was applied was patented, so that it was held that the designation given to the patented article passed to the public domain with the expiration of the patent, and there were no special circumstances warranting an exception

to such general rule; "Shredded Wheat," *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, 83 L. Ed. 73; "Cellophane," *DuPont Cellophane Co. Inc. v. Waxed Products Corp.*, 85 F. 2d 75; see also *Steem Electric Corp. v. Herzfeld Phillipson Co.*, 118 F. 2d 122; "Linoleum," *Linoleum Mfg. Co. v. Narin*, 7 Ch. Div. 834; *Singer Mfg. Co. v. June Mfg. Co.*, 163 U. S. 169; *Centaur v. Heinsfurter*, 84 F. 955; "Magic Drill Chuck," *Collis Co. v. Consolidated Machine Tool Corp.*, 41 F. 2d 641; "Specs," *Cridlebaugh v. Rudolph*, 131 F. 2d 795; "Wire Glass," *Wire Glass Co. v. Continuous Glass Co.*, 79 N. J. E. 277, 81 At. 374.

(i) Cases in which a trade-mark or trade name so aptly described competing products that the public on its own motion and without any effort or blame on the part of competitors adopted the term as the name for the product, whether sold by the original user or his competitors, and thus made a free word of the trade-mark; *Dry Ice Corporation v. Louisiana Dry Ice Corporation*, 54 F. 2d 882.

(j) Cases in which numbers, colors, the use of unpatented articles, or pictures, not trade-marks or trade names, were involved; Color—*Diamond Match Co. v. Saginaw Match Co.*, 142 F. 727; Article manufactured, *Zithers—Flagg Mfg. Co. v. Holway*, 178 Mass. 83, 59 N. E. 667; Numbers and letters for grades and types—*Matthews Conveyor Co. v. Palmer-Bee Co.*, 135 F. 2d 73; Color and packaging of box candy—*Morse v. Lowney*, 256 F. 935; Type of overall—*J. C. Penney Co. v. H. D. Lee Mercantile Co.*, 120 F. 2d 949; Unpatented use of unpainted aluminum and unpatented form of construction for a mechanical implement—*Pope Automatic Merchandising Co. v. M'Crum-Howell Co.*, 191 F. 979; Type of table—*Zangerle & Peterson Co. v. Venice Furniture Novelty Mfg. Co.*, 133 F. 2d 266.

Note 23. Case of **Standard Paint Co. v. Trinidad Asphalt Co.**, 220 U. S. 446, not authority for proposition that a term composed of descriptive words which has acquired a secondary meaning is not entitled to protection against infringement.

No secondary meaning was shown in the *Standard Paint Co. Case*, *supra*. See Note 24 to 305 U. S. 315.



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CHARLES ELMORE CROPLEY
CLERK

**IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

October Term, 1944.

No. 466.

SKINNER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
a Nebraska Corporation,

Petitioner,

VS.

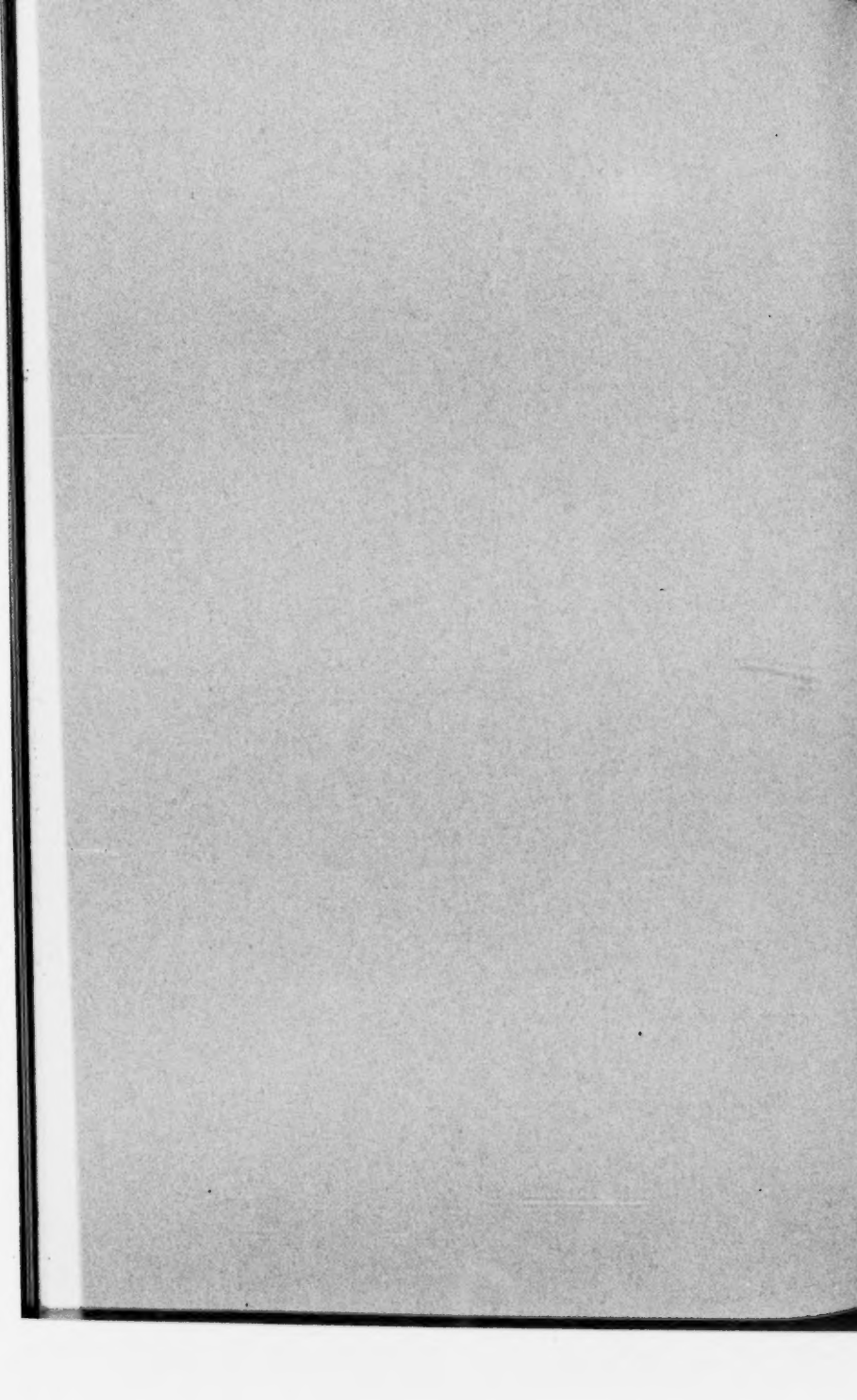
GENERAL FOODS SALES COMPANY, INC.,
a Delaware Corporation,

Respondent.

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI.**

LESTER E. WATERBURY,
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**IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

October Term, 1944.

No. 466.

SKINNER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
a Nebraska Corporation,

Petitioner,

vs.

GENERAL FOODS SALES COMPANY, INC.,
a Delaware Corporation,

Respondent.

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI.**

Opinions Below.

The opinion of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit (Transcript, Vol. VI, pp. 3-11) is unreported. The opinion of the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska (Transcript, Vol. I, pp. 67-104) is reported in 52 F. Supp. 432.

Argument.

It may be observed at the outset that petitioner's brief in support of its petition is in conspicuous violation of the requirement in this Court's Rule 38 (2) that supporting

briefs "must be direct and concise"; such a violation, the rule states, is "sufficient reason for denying the petition". Respondent ventures the suggestion that the rule might well be applied in this case.

Neither the petition nor the supporting brief discloses any reason for granting a writ, albeit the petition (pp. 18-23) lists eight alleged reasons. None of them meets the requirements of this Court's Rule 38 (5) (b). Alleged reasons (1), (2), (3), and (5) refer to alleged conflicts between decisions of United States Circuit Courts of Appeals. The rule relating to the granting of writs because of such conflicts confines the area to conflicts "on the same matter". The "matter"¹ litigated below was the alleged invasion by respondent's dry breakfast cereal "Post's Raisin Bran" of petitioner's trade rights in its dry breakfast cereal "Raisin-BRAN". There has been no prior litigation involving these products, and there can therefore be no conflict between decisions of United States Circuit Courts of Appeals within the meaning of that rule. Alleged reasons (4), (6), (7), and (8) are not even remotely related to anything found in Rule 38 (5) (b).

In petitioner's brief (pp. 27-30) there is at least the suggestion of a further reason, *i. e.*, a reason under that part of Rule 38 (5) (b) dealing with important questions of federal law which have "not been, but should be, settled by" this Court. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the

¹ WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY (2d Ed., 1935), p. 1515:

"Matter, *n.* 9. Material treated or to be treated in a book, speech, legal action, or the like; subject of, or subject matter for, discussion, argument, exposition, etc., whether oral or written; as, events that give *matter* to preachers and writers; to ask the *matter* in dispute."

Eighth Circuit in the case below and in other cases has refused to retry issues of fact. [See particularly that court's opinion in this case and in *Cleo Syrup Corporation v. Coca-Cola Co.* (1943) 139 F. (2d) 416 (C. C. A. 8), certiorari denied (1944) 321 U. S. (No. 1) iv.] That policy is, of course, the policy laid down by Rule 52 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, which says that "findings of fact shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous." Notwithstanding that language petitioner argues that an appellant has the right to require the appellate court to "try the case de novo"; that that right was denied by the court below; and that, while this Court "has not passed definitely" on the question, it is inclined against the view of the court below, such inclination allegedly being shown by certain language in this Court's opinion in *District of Columbia v. Pace* (1944) 320 U. S. 698.

The simple answer to all this is that, under modern federal equity practice, appellants have no right to a trial *de novo* in the appellate court. This is made perfectly clear in Mr. Justice Jackson's opinion in the *Pace* case, where he said, speaking of the state of the law in 1938 prior to the adoption of the new rules (p. 701):

Findings of fact by the trial judge of course were presumptively correct and were accepted by reviewing courts unless clearly wrong.

The language of R. C. P. 52 is not only virtually identical but was intended by the lawyers who framed the rules to accord "with the decisions on the scope of the review in modern federal equity practice."² The modern federal equity rule, as Mr. Justice Jackson points out

² RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH INDEX AND NOTES (Government Printing Office, 1939) p. 264.

(p. 702), did not deny the appellate court power to review facts, "but rather went to the weight to be accorded to the findings of a lower court and had special pertinence where credibility of witnesses was involved."

The essence of petitioner's claim below was that it had acquired by use exclusive trade rights in the expression "Raisin-BRAN" as applied to a dry breakfast cereal composed of bran and raisins and that respondent's use of the expression "Post's Raisin Bran" upon a like cereal infringed those rights. The issue was therefore drawn as to whether petitioner's designation "Raisin-BRAN" was or was not merely descriptive of the product, it being horn-book law that a trader can acquire no exclusive rights in a designation that is merely descriptive of his product. [3 RESTATEMENT OF THE LAW OF TORTS (1938) §721.]

On the controlling fact questions (a) whether "Raisin-BRAN" was or was not merely descriptive of petitioner's product and (b) whether or not respondent had committed any acts of unfair competition, the trial court found as follows (Transcript, Vol. I, p. 123):

41.

The name Raisin BRAN is not and never has been an arbitrary or fanciful term when applied to a dry prepared breakfast cereal consisting of a cereal flake base having a higher bran content than normal whole wheat flakes, with added whole raisins. On the contrary, it is and always has been descriptive of the product to which it has been applied. And this descriptive quality of the name has been the more exact and complete because of the employment both before and since the introduction of plaintiff's product in

the cereal food trade of the terms "Bran" and "Bran Flakes" to describe and characterize bran type cereals.

42.

There has been no unfair competition by General Food Corporation³ or by defendant in the marketing of said product manufactured by General Food Corporation and marketed by defendant and said product has not been passed off as that of plaintiff.

Those findings were attacked by petitioner in the court below, they were reviewed by that court, and they were sustained by it. Petitioner has had its day in court and the benefit of a painstaking appellate review of the entire case. Every litigation must end sometime. No reason within this Court's Rule 38 (5) (b) appearing for any further review, this litigation should end now.

The petition should be dismissed.

Dated: New York, N. Y., October 2, 1944.

Respectfully submitted,

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LESTER E. WATERBURY,
EDGAR M. MORSMAN, III,
Omaha, Neb.,
Of Counsel.

³The correct name of the corporation referred to is General Foods Corporation.

(3)

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CHARLES ELM

**In the
Supreme Court of the United States**

— 0 —
OCTOBER TERM, 1944

— 0 —
No. 466

— 0 —
SKINNER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
A Nebraska Corporation,

Petitioner,

vs.

GENERAL FOODS SALES COMPANY,
a Delaware Corporation,

Respondent.

— 0 —
**ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE
EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

— 0 —
PETITIONER'S REPLY BRIEF

— 0 —
**WILLIAM RITCHIE,
C. EARL HOVEY,**

Counsel for Petitioner.



**In the
Supreme Court of the United States**

OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 466

SKINNER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
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vs.

GENERAL FOODS SALES COMPANY,
a Delaware Corporation,

Respondent.

**ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE
EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

PETITIONER'S REPLY BRIEF

STATEMENT OF CASE

In the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, the Respondent argued that the law and facts in this case were so well stated in the Trial Court's Opinion that Respondent placed its chief reliance upon that opinion; in its Opinion the United States Circuit Court of Appeals

accepted the Trial Court's Opinion as a foundation upon which to predicate its decision (T. Vol. VI, pp. 4, 5). It is apparent from Respondent's Brief in Opposition to Writ of Certiorari that Respondent relies upon the Trial Court's Opinion as the answer to Petitioner's Brief.

In the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, the Respondent argued that under Federal Rules of Practice No. 52, the Findings of the Trial Court were binding upon the Circuit Court of Appeals, and not subject to review in that Court on appeal, and the Circuit Court of Appeals in its Opinion disposed of the issues of fact on that basis. In referring to the issue of secondary meaning, the Circuit Court said: "Under the evidence, the issue was one of fact to be tried and determined by the Trial Court, and its determination is binding upon this Court" (T. Vol. VI, pp. 8, 9). On the only other issue discussed by the Court, the Circuit Court of Appeals said: "The questions whether the appellees have furnished adequate means to identify their products and to distinguish them from appellant's product, and whether the similarities which exist between the packages used by appellees and the packages used by appellant have caused or are likely to cause confusion in the trade, were, we think, questions of fact for the Trial Court to determine" (T. Vol. VI, p. 10).

These findings of fact of the Circuit Court of Appeals were predicated upon the Court's conclusion that because the term "Raisin-BRAN" contained words descriptive of ingredients of the product, it could not become a technical trade-mark, and unless it was a technical trade-mark, the term was not entitled to protection

against infringement by the exact use of that term (T. Vol. VI, pp. 9, 10).

The Respondent, in its Brief in Opposition, now insists, "The simple answer to all this is that, under modern federal equity practice, appellants have no right to a trial de novo in the Appellate Court. * * * The language of R. C. P. 52 is not only virtually identical, but was intended by the lawyers who framed the rules to accord 'with the decisions on the scope of review in modern federal equity practice' " (Respondent's Brief, p. 3).

ARGUMENT

Re Petitioner's Brief.

Respondent, at the outset of its Brief, seeks to secure a dismissal of Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Certiorari on the ground that the Petitioner's Brief is not "direct and concise." By this the Respondent assumes that "direct and concise" means "fewer-paged."

Respondent, in this case, as in the Circuit Court of Appeals, places its reliance upon an extensive Opinion of the Trial Court (52 F. S. 432-452), in which Opinion the Trial Court raises many points and states many legal conclusions, some of which are clearly erroneous, and upon which conclusions it is clear it predicated the findings of fact upon which the judgment was based.

The record in this case is a large record with over 200 witnesses and many hundreds of Exhibits. The Petitioner had the duty of presenting to this Court as clearly and concisely as it could, a statement of facts predicated

upon this voluminous record and a discussion of numerous issues of law and fact raised in the Trial Court's Opinion; and it is submitted that the question as to whether or not Petitioner's Brief is concise and direct must be determined by the method in which it handled the numerous issues involved, and not by the number of pages required to meet those issues. Petitioner submits that its Brief is as direct and concise as was reasonably possible, considering verity (in the face of the large record), clarity and the issues involved, and this is demonstrated by the ease with which the Brief may be read and the fact that the Respondent has not found it necessary to challenge any statements with respect to the facts made in Petitioner's Brief. Surely the amount of work involved in determining the rights of the parties in this case is not ground for refusal to allow the Petition; and it is submitted that the importance to commerce and trade throughout the country of a proper determination of the numerous issues raised in the Trial Court's lengthy Opinion, furnishes ground for the allowance of the Writ, in that it will permit of a clarification by this Court of a substantial portion of the law with respect to unfair competition through the use of competitor's trade-marks and trade names, where such marks or names contain words descriptive of ingredients of the product.

Re Reasons Relied Upon for Allowance of Writ.

The Respondent insists that the reasons relied upon by Petitioner for allowance of the Writ (Petition for Writ of Certiorari, pp. 18-23) do not conform to the requirements of this Court's Rule 38 (5) (b). Respondent

does not attempt to point out that there is not a conflict of decisions between Circuit Courts of Appeal as pointed out in the Petition for the Writ and in Petitioner's Brief in support thereof, but insists that the following portion of Supreme Court Rule 38 (5) (b),—"A decision in conflict with decisions of other circuit courts of appeal on the same matter,"—refers only to decisions with respect to the same trade-mark. Respondent does not submit any authorities, but attempts to strain the word "matter" as used in the rule to an extent which this Court has not followed in allowing Petitions for Writs of Certiorari which are granted by the Court "in order to secure uniformity of decision." *Hamilton Brown Shoe Co. v. Wolf Bros Co.*, 240 U. S. 251, 258.

Respondent also ignores the fact that this Court has not had occasion to make definite pronouncements as to the application of Federal Rule of Procedure 52 to the review of facts by a United States Circuit Court of Appeals in an equity case, and ignores the fact that there are conflicting decisions between the Circuit Courts of Appeal on this question.

Respondent also states "Alleged reasons (4), (6), (7), and (8)¹ are not even remotely related to anything found in Rule 38 (5) (b)." This is contrary to the decision of this Court in *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Enamel Corporation*, 305 U. S. 315, 322, in which the Court said, "We granted certiorari on account of the importance in trade-mark law of the issues of the descriptive character of the mark and the effect of its

¹ Petition for Writ of Certiorari, pp. 20-23.

acquired meaning under the Trade Mark Act of 1920." In the Nu-Enamel Case, the question was raised as to whether or not a trade-mark which was composed of words descriptive of the product and which, by the admission of the defendant, had acquired a secondary meaning, was entitled to protection against infringement through the exact use of the term "Nu-Enamel." In the present case the same issue is raised, but in addition thereto, the question arises as to whether or not a term which had no exact meaning to the public prior to its adoption by the Petitioner, as its trade-mark, could acquire a secondary meaning so as to be entitled to the same protection as was afforded to the term "Nu-Enamel," and there is also a question involved as to whether or not a secondary meaning was acquired, and this question involves numerous other questions of law, among which are (a) does the case of *Kellogg Co. v. National Biscuit Co.*, 305 U. S. 111, apply to such a case, or does the case of *Coca Cola Co. v. Koke Company*, 254 U. S. 143, apply; (b) can a term of a descriptive nature which is capable of acquiring a secondary meaning and which has been applied to an unpatented product, acquire such a meaning during the time that the product to which it is applied has no competition; (c) what proof is sufficient to establish a secondary meaning in a term which has descriptive characteristics, but which is capable of acquiring a secondary meaning; (d) was Petitioner's registration of the term "Raisin-BRAN" under the 1920 Trade Mark Act void as the Trial Court concluded (F. 11, T. 173). Other issues of importance were raised by the decision of the Trial Court and are discussed in Petitioner's Original Brief, but the foregoing are suffi-

cient to indicate that the case at bar is of national importance equal to, if not greater than the case of *Armstrong Paint & Varnish Works v. Nu-Enamel Corporation*, supra.

Trial Court's Findings of Fact Not Conclusive.

Petitioner has pointed out in its original Brief that the Findings of Fact upon which the Trial Court predicated its Opinion were based upon erroneous conclusions of law and, as pointed out in the above statement, that the Opinion of the Circuit Court of Appeals is also predicated upon such erroneous conclusions.

Respondent calls attention to Findings of Fact 41 and 42 (T. 123) and contends that they definitely concluded the matter in favor of the Respondent, so that the facts with regard to such Findings were not open to review by the Circuit Court of Appeals. In making this argument, Respondent fails to recognize that the Findings quoted in Respondent's Brief must be read and considered together with the other Findings of the Trial Court with respect to that matter. Finding 41 must be read along with Findings 6, 8, 12 (T. 106-108) and 23 (T. 114), and Finding of Fact 25 must be read in connection with and considered along with Findings 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 (T. 106-115), and in this connection, Findings 6, 12, 15, 20, 23 and 24, should be read together. It is also to be noted that Finding 25 was predicated upon Conclusions of Law 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 15 (T. 124-126) and upon erroneous Conclusions of Law 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 (T. 125-127), and upon erroneously failing to conclude as requested by

Petitioner's Requested Conclusions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 (T. 52-54).

It is further pointed out that Finding 42 (T. 123) is predicated upon erroneous Finding 25 and erroneous statements in Findings 37, 39 and 40 (T. 121-123) which erroneous statements were predicated upon the theory that a trade-mark which contained descriptive words could not acquire a secondary meaning in any event, and if it did, would not be entitled to protection against infringement of the exact use of such term, and such Findings were also founded upon the erroneous failure of the Lower Court to conclude as requested in Petitioner's Requested Conclusions 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26 and 28 (T. 55-57).

The Respondent's contention that Findings 41 and 42 were reviewed by the Lower Court is not supported by a reading of the Lower Court's Opinion and it is apparent that the Lower Court accepted the Trial Court's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and did not review the Findings of Fact, but considered itself bound by them.

Respectfully submitted,

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